櫻の園

吉田秋生

白泉社文庫

吉田秋生

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✣吉田秋生

8月11日、東京生まれ。
昭和52年別冊少女コミック「ちょっと不思議な下宿人」でデビュー。
以後、少女誌を中心に数々の力作を発表し、
感動のアメリカン・ロマン「カリフォルニア物語」で人気を得る。
「吉祥天女」ほかで第29回小学館漫画賞受賞。
代表作「[illegible]ニア物語」「吉祥天女」[illegible]多数。

✣カバー・イラスト　吉田秋生　✣カバー・デザイン　三枚泰之+Drawing Sense "LUNACY"。

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櫻の園

数百本の桜に囲まれた丘の上の女子高校、桜華学園。花の季節になると、薄紅のかんむりをかぶっているように見え、誰が名付けたのか、そこは「桜の園」と呼ばれていた。桜華学園演劇部では、その名にちなみ春の創立祭には、必ずチェーホフの「櫻の園」を上演するのが伝統になっていた――。そんな演劇部に所属する乙女達の思春期のほのかな心情を桜の花に寄せて綴る――。

白泉社文庫(好評既刊より)

日出処の天子(全7巻)	山岸凉子
アラベスク(全4巻)・妖精王(全3巻)	山岸凉子
綿の国星(全4巻)・夏のおわりの1短調(全1巻)	大島弓子
バナナブレッドのプディング(全1巻)	大島弓子
さようなら女達(全1巻)	大島弓子
銀の三角(全1巻)・メッシュ(全3巻)	萩尾望都
ケーキケーキケーキ(全1巻)	萩尾望都
この娘うります!(全1巻)	萩尾望都
空の食欲魔人(全1巻)・美貌の果実(全1巻)	川原泉
甲子園の空に笑え!(全1巻)	川原泉
本日のお言葉(全1巻)	川原泉
笑う大天使(ミカエル)(全1巻)	川原泉
櫻の園(全1巻)	吉田秋生
Zフェルト(全1巻)・イブの息子たち(全3巻)	青池保子
スケバン刑事(全11巻)	和田慎二
風と木の詩(全10巻)	竹宮恵子
エイリアン通り(ストリート)(全4巻)	成田美名子
動物のお医者さん(全8巻)	佐々木倫子
はみだしっ子(全9巻)	三原順
さくらんぼ爆弾(全1巻)	柴門ふみ
摩利と新吾(全9巻)	木原敏江
南京路に花吹雪(全3巻)	森川久美
妖鬼妃伝(全1巻)・聖アリス帝国(全1巻)	美内すずえ
ほほえみの騎士(全1巻)・13月の悲劇(全1巻)	美内すずえ
ガラスの仮面(1〜32刊行中)	美内すずえ
ハタリロ!(1〜9刊行中)	魔夜峰央
ラシャーヌ!(1〜3刊行中)	魔夜峰央

櫻の園

吉田秋生
Akimi YOSHIDA

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The Cherry Orchard

Yoshida Akimi

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文庫

The Cherry Orchard

Yoshida Akimi

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The Cherry Orchard

Cold Flowers

OH YEAH?
YEP, THAT'S RIGHT. EVERY SPRING THE DRAMA CLUB HAS TO PUT ON THE CHERRY ORCHARD FOR THE FOUNDING DAY FESTIVAL.
WHO'RE YOU PLAYING, ATSUKO?
ME?
NORTH SHORE PREVIEW
IT'S A RUSSIAN NAME THEY'RE ALL SOME-BODYSKY AND STUFF.
YIKES, THAT'S A MOUTHFUL.
RA... NEV... SKA... YA...
I'M ANYA!
THE HEROINE'S DAUGHTER.
OH YEAH?
SUDDEN
GRAB
EEEEK!!
MUST BE HARD TO MEMORIZE YOUR LINES WITH ALL THOSE LONG NAMES...

Sakura no Sono

Yoshida Akimi

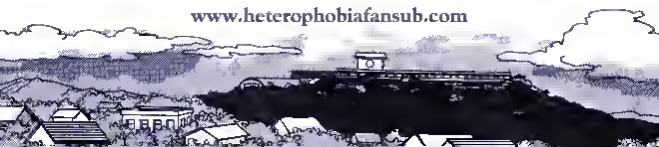
Translated by: Megchan

Edited by: Shinkaron

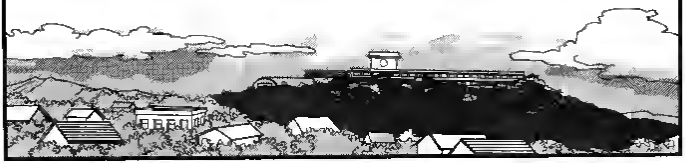
QC'd by: Megchan

www.manga.megchan.com

www.heterophobiafansub.com



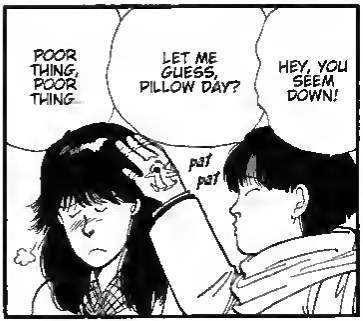
Set atop a hill and surrounded by hundreds of cherry trees, my school looks like it's wearing a misty pink crown when the flowers begin to bloom.



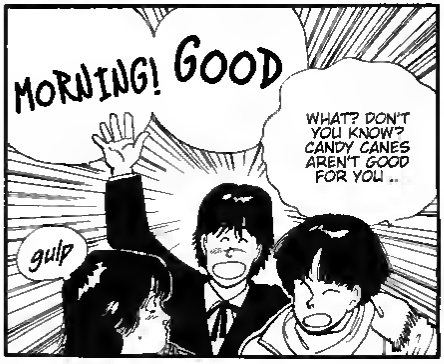
I don't know who named it The Cherry Orchard,

but I bet she was a pretty awful person.

dazed


POOR THING, POOR THING
LET ME GUESS, PILLOW DAY?
HEY, YOU SEEM DOWN!
pat pat

Whoops!


MORNING! GOOD
WHAT? DON'T YOU KNOW? CANDY CANES AREN'T GOOD FOR YOU ..
gulp

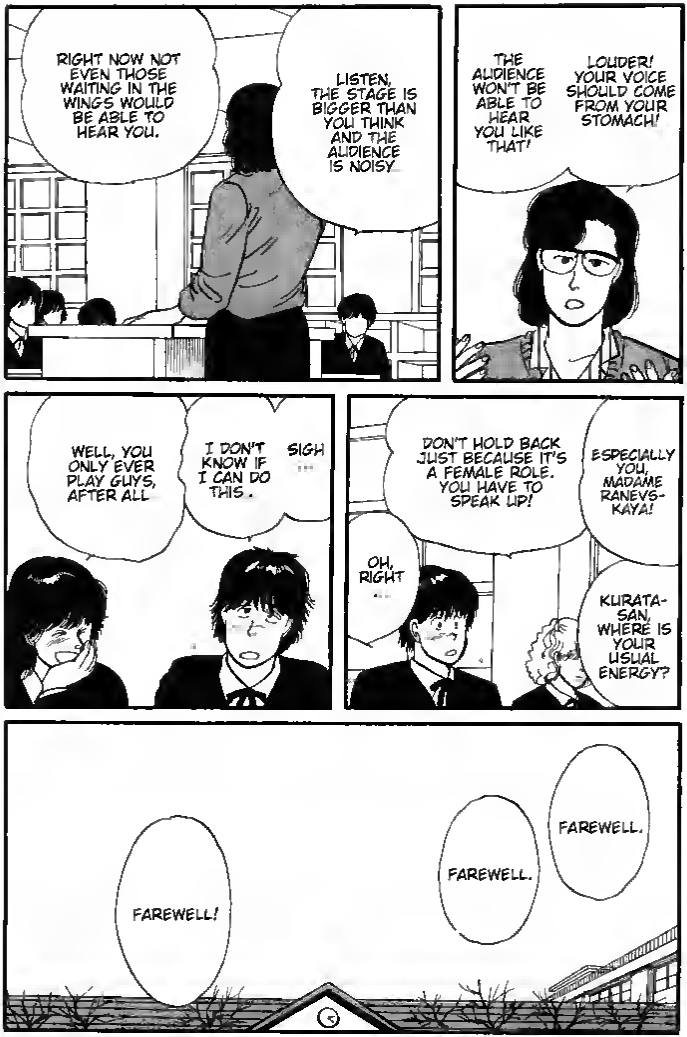
BESIDES, IT'S NOT "PILLOWS" FOR ME, IT'S "CANDY CANES"
THAT'S NOT IT!

YOU, TOO?
THINGS'VE BEEN SO DEPRESSING LATELY...
You're sure seem cheerful enough
HUH?
NOPE...
MORNING! DID YOU MEMORIZE YOUR LINES, CHIYO?
So loud...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
"YOU, TOO"?
I SLAPPED SHIN-CHAN
NOT JUST "SOMETHING"
You're so loud!
AND YOU'RE NOT?
S-SORRY!
WHAAAAT?!
WHAAAAT!?

Even though we're in different classes, Chiyoko and I are both in the drama club, so the three of us still hang around together a lot.
NAKANO-SAN.
Kurata Chiyoko and Inoue Shimako have been my friends since junior high
I'LL TELL YOU TODAY AFTER PRACTICE IT'S A LONG STORY.
OK.
SEE YOU BEHIND THE GYM.
OH, SHE HAS GYM FIRST PERIOD, SO SHE'S PROBABLY IN THE CHANGING ROOM.
WHERE'S KURATA-SAN? I LOOKED IN HER CLASSROOM, BUT SHE'S NOT THERE
OH, REALLY? ALL RIGHT.
TODAY'S PRACTICE HAS BEEN MOVED TO 3:30.
OH YES?
SO POLITE WITH SHIMIZU-SAN?
We're the same age.
WHY AM I ALWAYS
I SEE I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.

Because of our school's name, the Ouka Academy drama club has a tradition of doing Chekhov's The Cherry Garden every spring for the Founding Day festival.
"My deor nursery. oh you beoutiful room... I used to sleep here when I was a baby.. And here I am like a little girl again..."
Note: Ouka means cherry blossom.
The club is mostly run by our new club president, Shimizu Yuko, and the rest of us 2nd years.
With graduation looming, the 3rd years hardly show their faces anymore.
"You went away during Greot Lent, when it wos snowing and frosty, but now?"
"I didn't get any sleep for four nights on the journey... I'm awfully cold"

Note: All lines from the play are taken from Julius West s translation found at http://www.eldritchpress.org/ac/chorch.htm

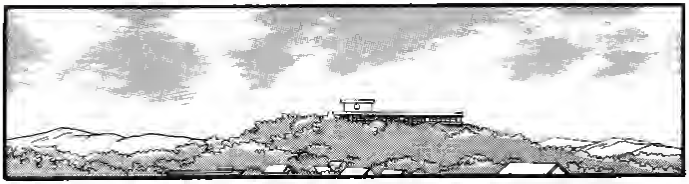

RIGHT NOW NOT EVEN THOSE WAITING IN THE WINGS WOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR YOU.
LISTEN. THE STAGE IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK AND THE AUDIENCE IS NOISY.
THE AUDIENCE WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR YOU LIKE THAT!
LOUDER! YOUR VOICE SHOULD COME FROM YOUR STOMACH!
WELL, YOU ONLY EVER PLAY GUYS, AFTER ALL.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS.
SIGH...
DON'T HOLD BACK JUST BECAUSE IT'S A FEMALE ROLE. YOU HAVE TO SPEAK UP!
ESPECIALLY YOU, MADAME RANEVSKAYA!
OH, RIGHT...
KURATA-SAN, WHERE IS YOUR USUAL ENERGY?
FAREWELL!
FAREWELL.
FAREWELL.

WHAT'RE THEY THINKING OF ANYWAY?
It's not very popular with the students.
IT'S BEEN AROUND SINCE MY SISTER WENT HERE, SO AT LEAST 10 YEARS.
Our school has a rule that every student must say "farewell" to the campus upon leaving for the day.
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
FARE-WELL!
UGH, I HATE HEARING THOSE VOICES!
GRABBED ME ALL OF A SUDDEN AND WITHOUT THINKING, I...
..HE JUST
SO WHY'D YOU GUYS FIGHT?
SMACK
UGH, SHIN-CHAN!! HOW DARE YOU!

SO WHAT DID HE DO THEN?
GRABBING SOMEONE OUT OF THE BLUE IS JUST RUDE!
GOOD ON YOU! HE DESERVES IT!
AHA HAHA HAHA!
I GOTTA USE THE BATH-ROOM
...AND THEN HE HOLED UP IN THERE FOR A WHILE
That hurt!
Fine, jeez. I get it.
YEAH. .
YOU'VE BEEN DATING FOR A YEAR, THOUGH, HAVEN'T YOU?
?
?
?
WAHA HAHA HA!
Naive
Savvy

HE IS A MAN, AFTER ALL...
THE THING IS...
HM? MMM WELL, YEAH...
YOU'VE KISSED, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!
WAIT, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
YIKES, NOW SHE'S ALL DEPRESSED.
...
I'VE GOTTA DO IT...
SO THAT'S IT, HUH?
i do, but...
WELL, SURE, I DO, BUT...
BUT... YOU LIKE HIM, RIGHT?
RUGBY CLUB

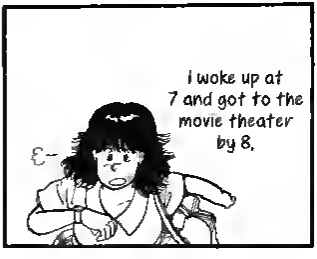
I'M HOME.
OH, WELCOME BACK.
DO WE HAVE A GUEST?
YAMAMOTO-SAN'S HERE TO SET A DATE FOR THE CEREMONY.
swish
YAY, CAKE! ♡
COME ON DOWN ONCE YOU GET CHANGED. THERE'S CAKE.
CLACK
Yamamoto-san is my sister Ayako's fiance. She's ten years older than me and getting married in April.

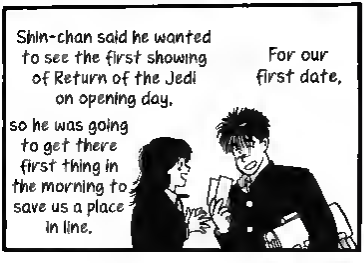


YOU CAN SEE THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING FROM HERE

"OH, NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M SAKATA SHINICHI."

He was my friend's boyfriend's friend.
It was during last year's Founding Day festival that I met Shin-chan...

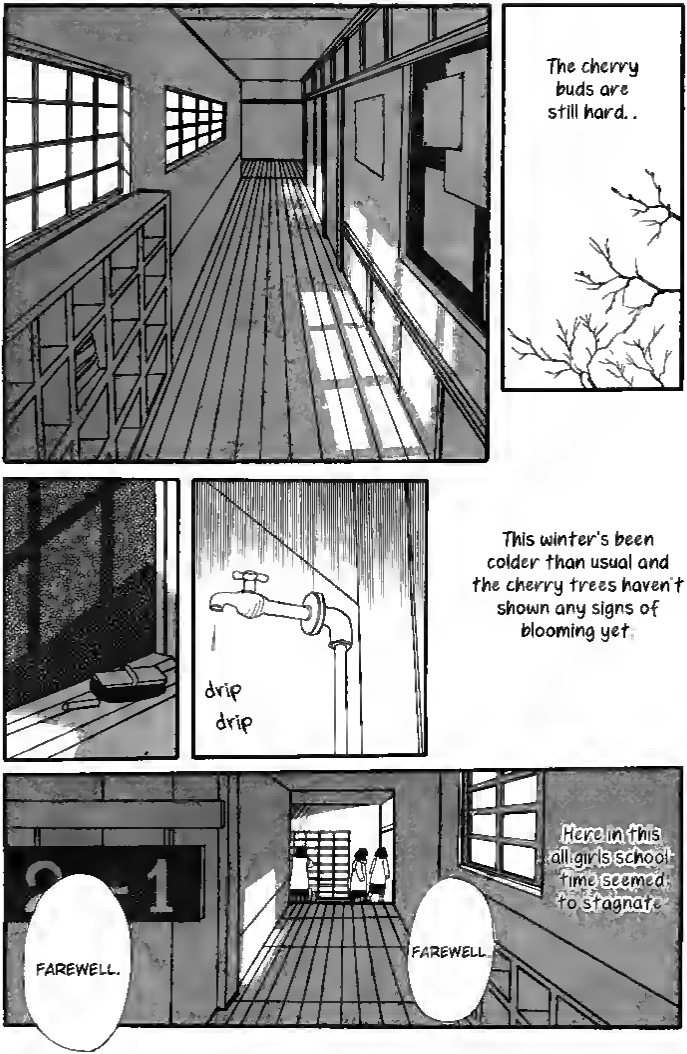

I woke up at 7 and got to the movie theater by 8.


Shin-chan said he wanted to see the first showing of Return of the Jedi on opening day,
so he was going to get there first thing in the morning to save us a place in line.
For our first date,

...
Z
He's asleep... Still standing up
but there was already a huge line. When I finally got to the front of the line, I found Shin-chan.
YIKES
That moment
is when I really fell for him.
ZZZ

He's probably gonna get wrinkles early
Teehee!
Prune face
KNOCK KNOCK
AKKO!
Snort
When he smiles
his eyes crinkle up
LEAP
IS THERE EVER!!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
I'M GOING THROUGH MY OLD CLOTHES
GIMME A BREAK! I LIKE THIS ONE, TOO!
Eeee!
THIS IS PINK HOUSE, ISN'T IT!?
Squee!
CAN I HAVE THIS SWEATER? I'VE HAD MY EYE ON IT FOR AGES!
Hahaha!
OH! THIS BLOUSE, TOO!

WOW!
LOOK, IT'S MY OLD SCHOOL UNIFORM BLOUSE!
GOING THROUGH THEM ALL LIKE THIS, IT'S CLEAR HOW MANY CLOTHES I HAD THAT I NEVER WEAR.
HEE HEEHEE! MINE, ALL MINE!
THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK.
THAT HEAVY SKIRT AND THIS JACKET. .
OH, AND THIS JACKET HAS THE SCHOOL CREST ON IT
THE DESIGN HASN'T CHANGED A BIT...
HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT TRADITION'S STILL AROUND.
PUTTING ON THE CHERRY ORCHARD EVERY YEAR WHEN THE CHERRY TREES ARE IN BLOOM
KINDA ....
HM? WELL...
HAVE YOU MEMORIZED ALL YOUR LINES?
HOW'S THE CHERRY ORCHARD COMING?
THE NAMES ARE SO HARD TO PRONOUNCE . .


The cherry buds are still hard..
drip
drip
This winter's been colder than usual and the cherry trees haven't shown any signs of blooming yet.
2-1
FAREWELL.
FAREWELL
Here in this all-girls school time seemed to stagnate

Note: Hotaru no Hikari is a song set to the tune of Auld Lang Syne which is commonly sung at graduations

ALL RIGHT, START THE MUSIC!
THEN HOTARU NO HIKARI WILL BEGIN TO PLAY.
AND THE GRADUATING STUDENTS WILL GIVE THEIR REPLY.
THEN THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 1ST AND 2ND YEAR STUDENTS WILL READ THEIR FAREWELL SPEECH.
YEAH, WELL...
I MEAN, HALF OF THEM ARE STAYING ON AT OUR SISTER COLLEGE.
UGH, THIS WHOLE GRADUATION CEREMONY THING IS SO SILLY.
SIGH... TOO MANY THINGS TO THINK ABOUT LATELY...
BUT WE'LL BE 3RD YEARS THIS YEAR! YOU'VE GOTTA START THINKING ABOUT IT A LITTLE AT LEAST!
MMM... I HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT YET.
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS? ARE YOU GOING TO APPLY SOMEWHERE ELSE?
munch

Note: Shittoruke was a character played by comedian Akashiya Sanma on the 80s variety show Oretachi Hyokinzoku

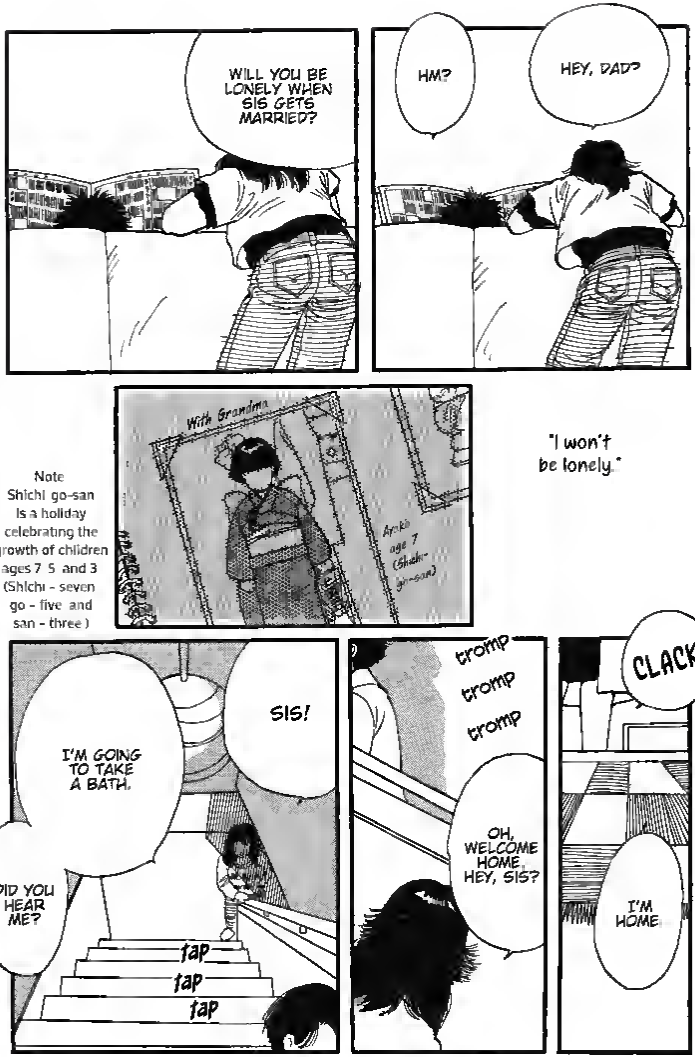
brrrring brrrring
WAHA HAHA!
Shittoruke's the worst
I'm Shittoruke!
click
ACK! DAD!
OOPS, I FORGOT SHIN-CHAN WAS GONNA CALL.
W-wait, what? Was that your dad? I just assumed it was you! I said I'd call at 8:30!
ATSUKO, IT'S FOR YOU.
Naro haro, dis iz Shin-chan speakingu.

...
Hello?
Atsuko?
Wanna come over?
My family's gonna be gone next Saturday.
HUH? UH-HUH, YEAH
OK, I'LL GO.
I won't do anything you don't want...
MMM?
I KNOW, I KNOW ...
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S REALLY HECTIC AROUND HERE RIGHT NOW WITH AYAKO GETTING MARRIED IN APRIL.
It makes me happy to just talk about nothing like this.
I enjoy this time together.
JUST WATCHING TV.
HM? NOTHING REALLY ...
YEP. HYOKINZOKU.

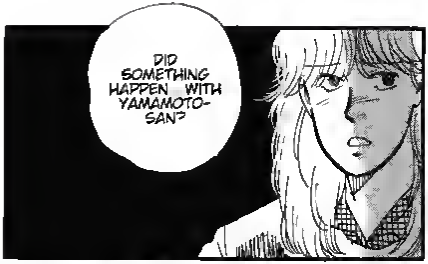
If someone would say "it's OK" and give my back a little tap...
If...someone would just give me a push.
(I do know it can't stay like this forever.)
MORNING!
GOOD MORNING
Why can't it just stay like this?
I could jump down any time.
I know I could make the jump.
mutter mutter mutter
HOW'S IT GOING?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
PAT
HEY!

QUIT IT!
YEAH, THE MALE ROLE YOU PLAYED LAST YEAR WAS GREAT YOU MADE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN!
THERE ARE A LOT OF GIRLS DISAPPOINTED YOU'RE PLAYING A FEMALE ROLE, THOUGH.
I REALLY HAVE ZERO CONFIDENCE
I MEAN, MADAME RANEVSKAYA..
Yay! I got the lead!
I KNOW I'M TALL AND HAVE A DEEP, LOUD VOICE AND SQUARE SHOULDERS,
BUT SO WHAT!?
WHY DOES EVERYONE WANT TO MAKE ME A GUY!?
I guess it really bothers her.
No one said all that.
I DUNNO IF WE DID...
OH, SO YOU MADE UP, THEN.
NOTHING HAPPENED.. I'M SEEING HIM SATURDAY, THOUGH...
OH!
HEY, ATSUKO, WHAT HAPPENED WITH SHIN-CHAN AFTER THAT...?
OK, time to change the subject

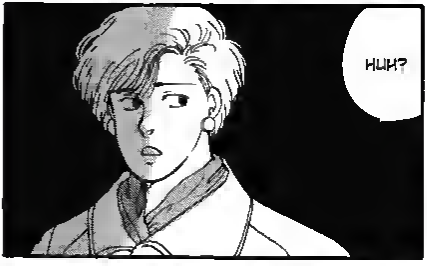
?
?
WHY YOU!
Still naive
Eeek! Harder, baby!
YEAH, THAT CANDY CANE'S NOT ENOUGH, FOR ONE THING
IT HAS ITS OWN PROBLEMS
MUST BE NICE TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND. I WISH I HAD ONE!
ding
dong
HM?
ATSUKO
IS THIS SHIN-CHAN AMERICAN?
HE WAS JUST FOOLING AROUND 'CAUSE HE THOUGHT YOU WERE ME!
NO WAY! JEEZ, DAD!
Besides, not all foreigners are American.


WILL YOU BE LONELY WHEN SIS GETS MARRIED?
HM?
HEY, DAD?
With Grandma
Ayako age 7 (Shichi-go-san)
"I won't be lonely."
Note
Shichi go-san is a holiday celebrating the growth of children ages 7 5 and 3 (Shichi - seven go - five and san - three)
SIS!
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH.
DID YOU HEAR ME?
tap
tap
tap
tromp
tromp
tromp
OH, WELCOME HOME. HEY, SIS?
CLACK
I'M HOME.

creak
CAN I COME IN?
CLACK
SIS?
?
I'M TALKING TO YOU HERE!
BANG BANG
HEY, SIS!
WHY'S THE LIGHT'S OFF?
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
JUST LEAVE IT OFF!


DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH YAMAMOTO-SAN?

WHAT'S WRONG...?
SIS...?

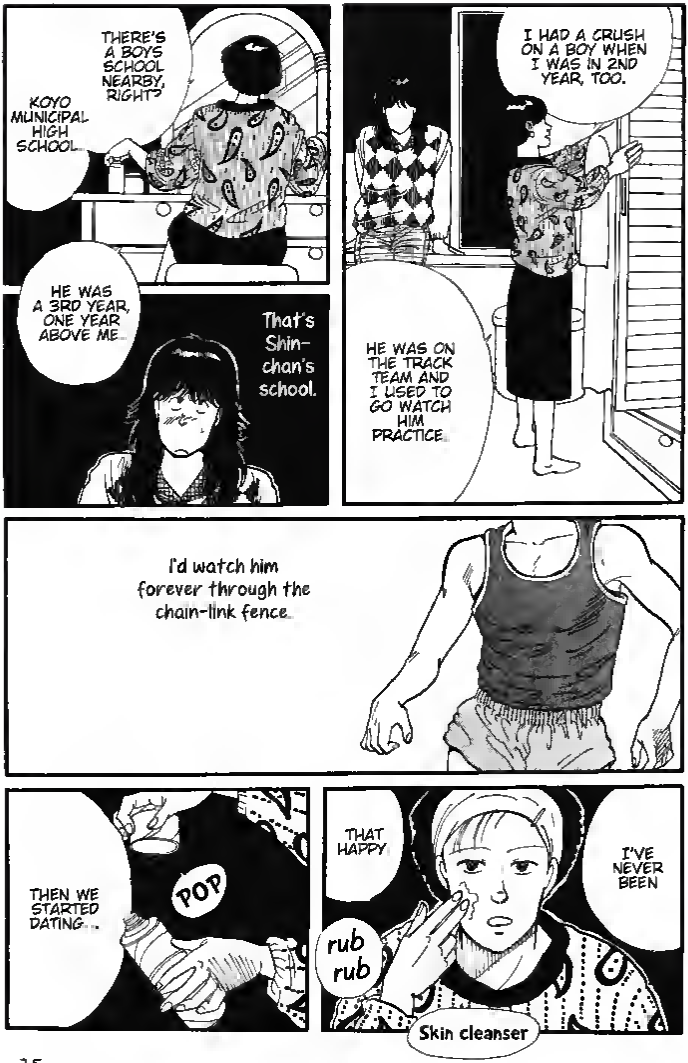

HUH?

NO...
IT'S NOTHING. I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIM TODAY.

SIGH...
I THINK I DRANK TOO MUCH...

rattle

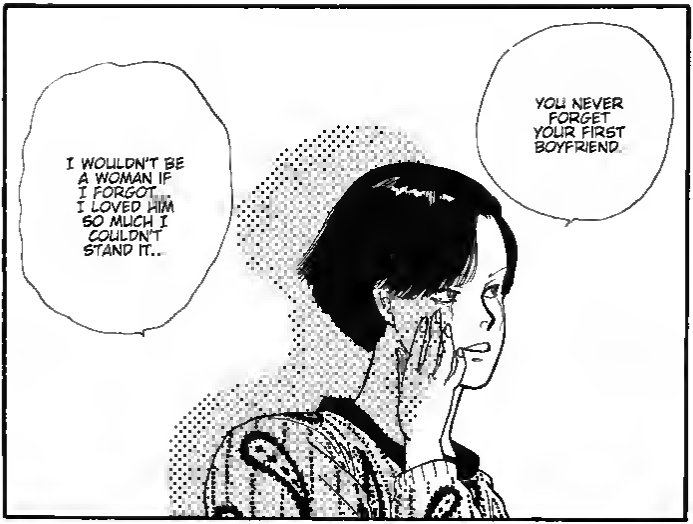
OH YEAH....
PROBABLY THE JANITOR?
I WONDER WHO'S THERE AT THIS HOUR.
OH, THE LIGHTS ARE ON AT THE SCHOOL.
.....
IT ALWAYS LOOKED LIKE A PINK CROWN EVERY SPRING.
I WON'T GET TO SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FROM HERE THIS YEAR.
HE'LL MAKE A GOOD MAN
HE'S A GOOD BOY.
I'd like to see him in 10 years!
SAKATA SHIN-CHAN! HOW IS HE?
THAT BOY... WHAT WAS HIS NAME...?
OH, HE'S OK.
HUH?

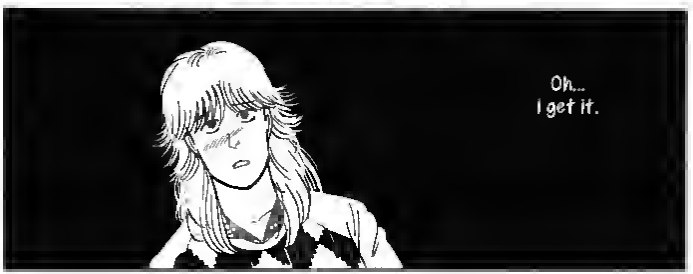

THERE'S A BOYS SCHOOL NEARBY, RIGHT?
KOYO MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL.
That's Shin-chan's school.
HE WAS A 3RD YEAR, ONE YEAR ABOVE ME.
I HAD A CRUSH ON A BOY WHEN I WAS IN 2ND YEAR, TOO.
HE WAS ON THE TRACK TEAM AND I USED TO GO WATCH HIM PRACTICE.
I'd watch him forever through the chain-link fence.
THEN WE STARTED DATING...
POP
THAT HAPPY
I'VE NEVER BEEN
rub rub
Skin cleanser

TODAY I RAN INTO HIM
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES
HUH? REALLY?
rub rub
YEAH, WE HAD DRINKS.
SAID "LONG TIME, NO SEE"...
fluff
WE TALKED ABOUT ALL SORTS OF STUFF...
AND SAID IT WAS SO NOSTALGIC.
I WAS SURE HE WAS GOING TO COME ON TO ME.
HUH?
THEN HE SAID,
"DO YOU HAVE TO BE HOME TONIGHT?"

I LIED TO HIM I COULDN'T TELL HIM I WAS GETTING MARRIED SOON
I WANTED HIM TO COME ON TO ME.
I PROBABLY LOOKED LIKE I WAS GONNA CRY
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS
I'M NOT A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL ANYMORE AND HE'S NOT A BOY OF 18.
flop
IT MADE ME REALIZE IT REALLY HAS BEEN 10 YEARS.
BUT I SAID, "I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA."
WE'RE NOT THE PEOPLE WE WERE

10 YEARS...
HE'S BECOME THE SORT OF GUY WHO'D COME ON TO AN OLD FLAME
AND I'VE BECOME THE SORT OF WOMAN WHO CAN CASUALLY DEFLECT IT.
WE'LL NEVER SHARE THOSE AWKWARD KISSES AGAIN...
IT'S JUST...
WHAT...? ARE YOU CRYING?
YOU...REALLY LOVED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH....
I NEVER FORGOT HIM...
YOU NEVER FORGOT HIM...

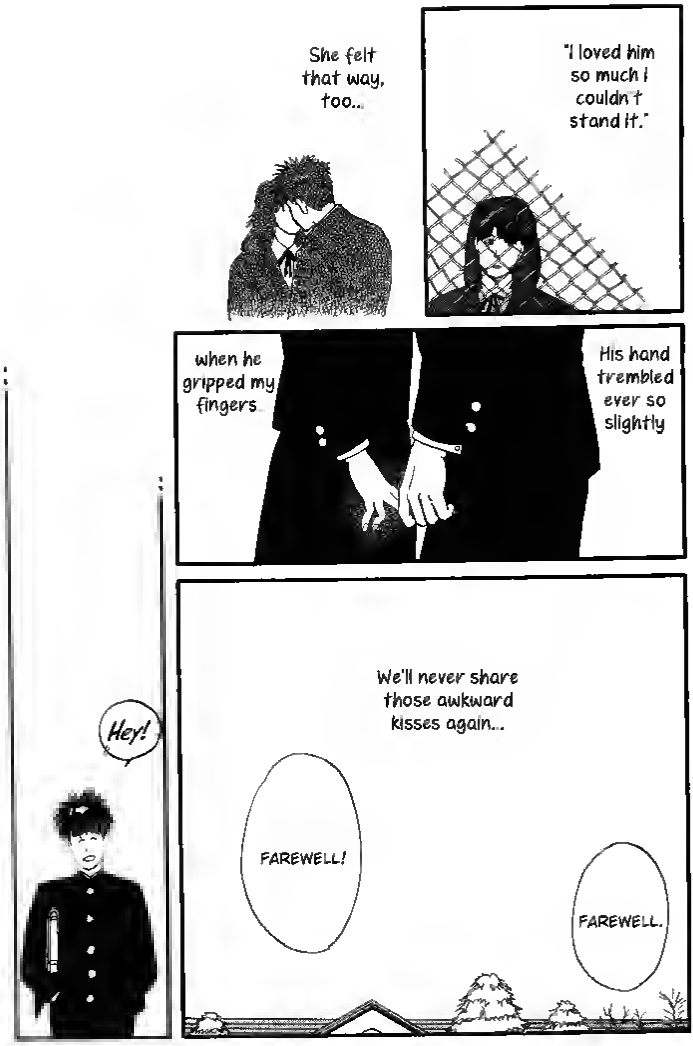




This must be

what it's like

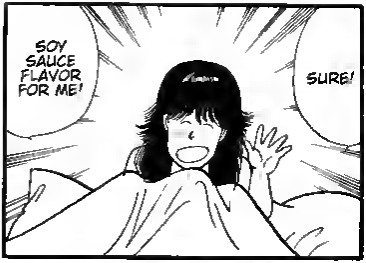
to love someone...


She felt that way, too..
"I loved him so much I couldn't stand it."
when he gripped my fingers
His hand trembled ever so slightly
We'll never share those awkward kisses again...
FAREWELL!
FAREWELL.
Hey!

Both thinking they ought to say something

COME ON IN.
click
Sakata
I wonder whot i'll look like when I walk out this door.
Todoy I wrote "I'm going!" in my diary.
CLACK

slide
I'M STARVING!
...YOU AWAKE?
UH, YEAH...

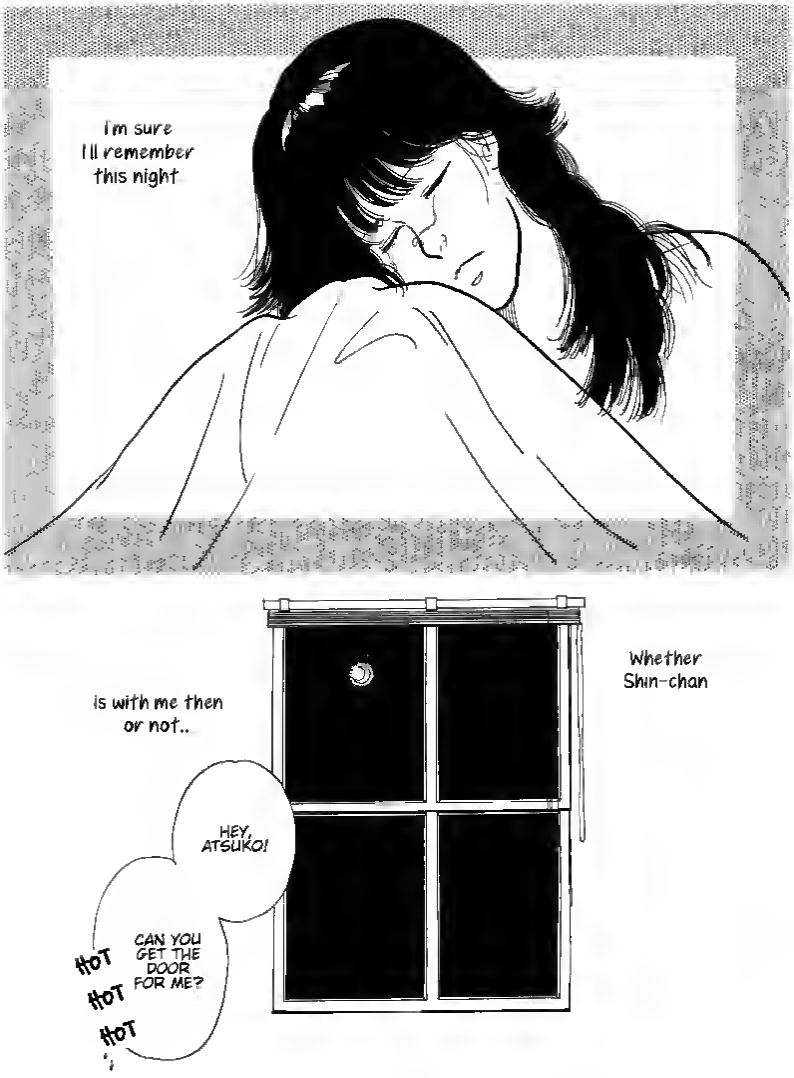

SOY SAUCE FLAVOR FOR ME!
SURE!

YOU WANT INSTANT RAMEN?

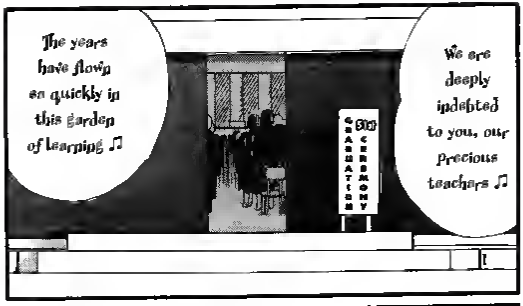
BACK IN A SEC
'KAY.
grin

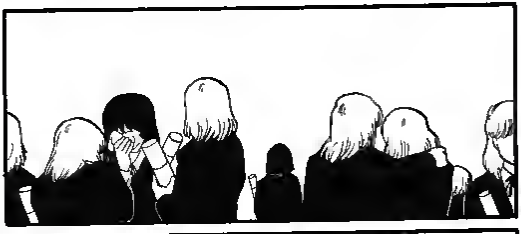
10 years from now...

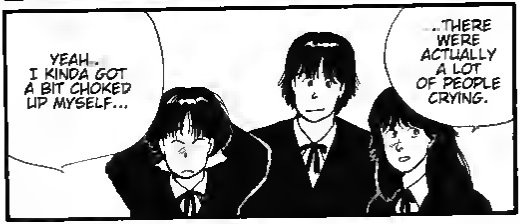
...
CLACK
tap
tap
tap
tap


I'm sure
I'll remember
this night
Whether
Shin-chan
is with me then
or not..
HEY,
ATSUKO!
CAN YOU
GET THE
DOOR
FOR ME?
HOT
HOT
HOT

Note: The song they're singing is Aogeba Toutoshi, a traditional graduation song

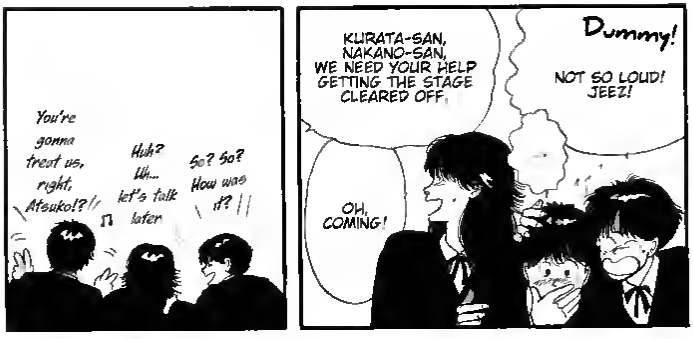

The years have flown so quickly in this garden of learning ♫
GRADUATION CEREMONY
We are deeply indebted to you, our precious teachers ♫





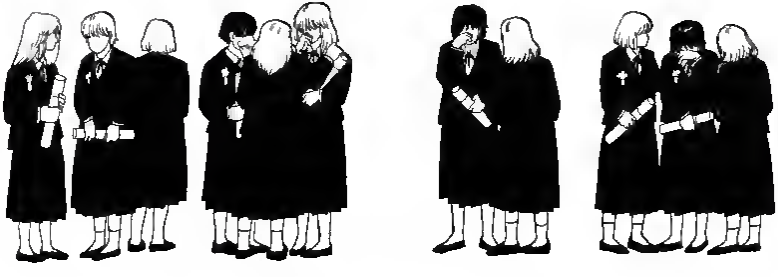
PRO-BABLY...
..
...I BET I'LL CRY NEXT YEAR, TOO...
THAT'S JUST THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REHEARSAL AND THE REAL THING, I GUESS.
WHAT? YOU WERE THE ONE SAYING IT WAS NO BIG DEAL

I..
SO, HEY...
AS IF..
GOT ALL YOUR LINES DOWN?
NOW COMES THE HARD PART!
HUH?
ME AND SHIN-CHAN. .
HM?
DID IT.
WHAAAAT!
WHAAAAAAAT!?


You're gonna treat us, right, Atsuko!?
Huh? Uh... let's talk later
So? So? How was it?
KURATA-SAN, NAKANO-SAN, WE NEED YOUR HELP GETTING THE STAGE CLEARED OFF.
OH, COMING!
Dummy!
NOT SO LOUD! JEEZ!

March 2nd.

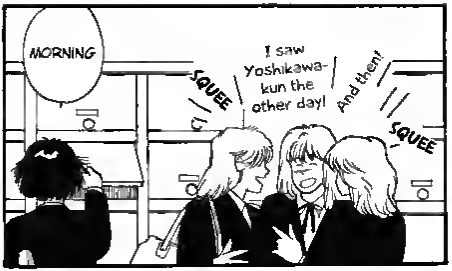
Rehearsal for The Cherry Blossom begins.

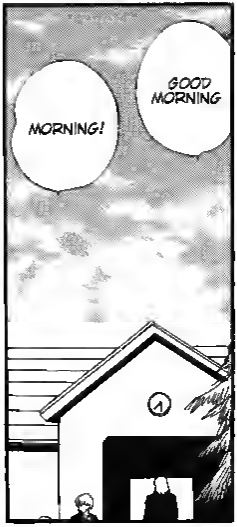


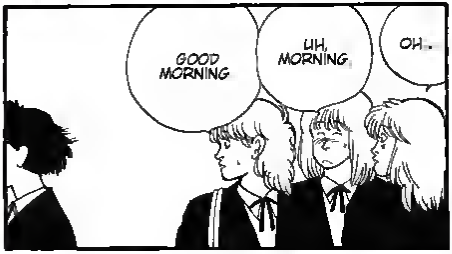
Red Flowers

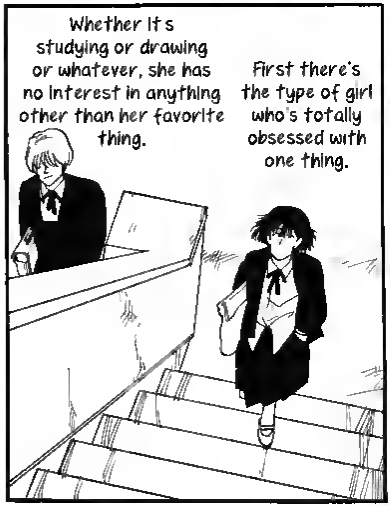
WHAT? I MEAN. COME ON.
WHY NOT?
WE JUST MET
NO.
SORRY.
REALLY?
TOO BAD
WHAT? BUT..
IT'S A GOOD-NIGHT KISS
I'M JUST NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD...
SURE ..
CAN I CALL YOU AGAIN?

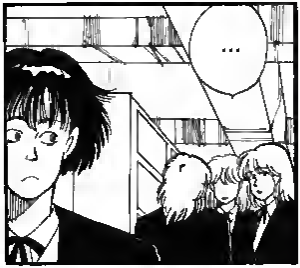
...
SEE YA.
COLLEGE GUYS ARE DUMB.
A GOOD-NIGHT KISS? GIMME A BREAK.


MORNING
SQUEE
I saw Yoshikawa-kun the other day!
And then!
SQUEE


GOOD MORNING
MORNING!


GOOD MORNING
UH, MORNING
OH.


Whether it's studying or drawing or whatever, she has no interest in anything other than her favorite thing.
First there's the type of girl who's totally obsessed with one thing.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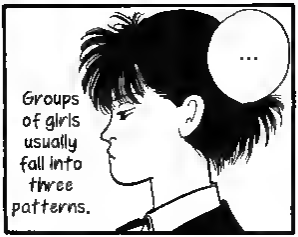
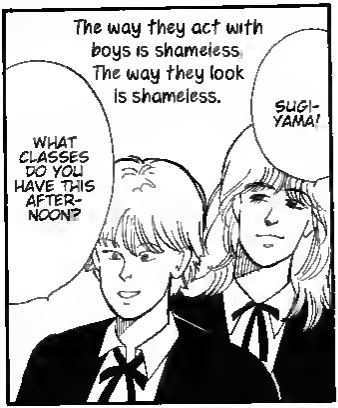

...
Groups of girls usually fall into three patterns.

She's into celebrities and boys, but is really just all talk.

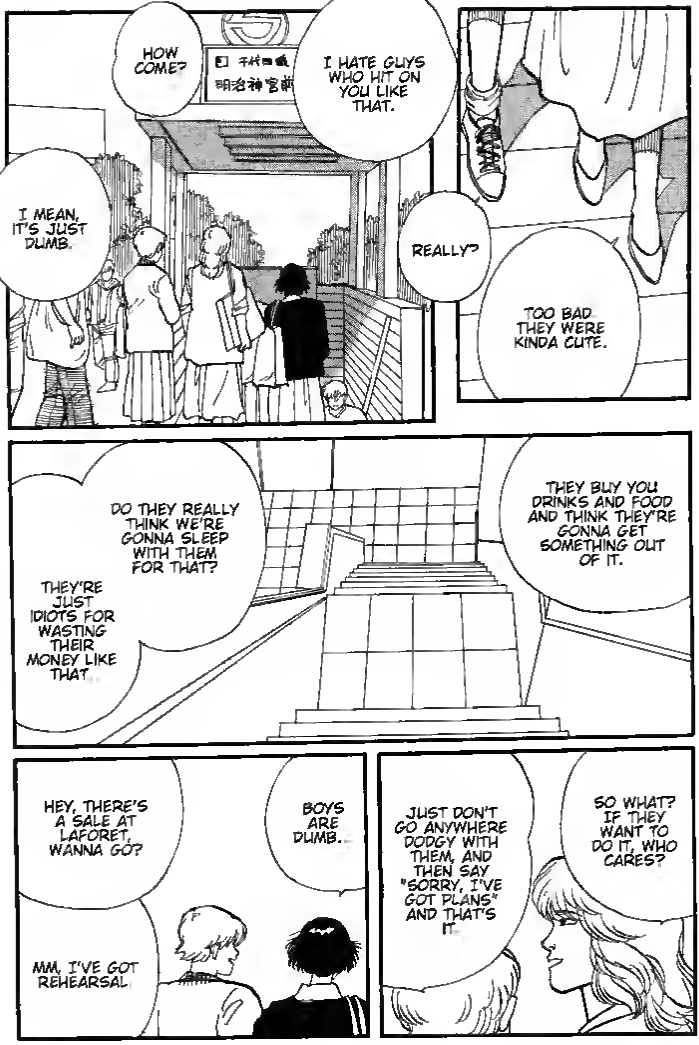
The most common type is the ordinary girl.



WE CAN CHANGE AT MY HOUSE
THEN LET'S CUT CLASS AND GO SHOPPING
NOPE
YOU LIKE THOSE CLASSES?
HEY, WHAT ABOUT SHUNICHI-KUN?
WHAT? YOU WENT OUT WITH HIM!?
HUH? BUT SHUN-CHAN AND I AREN'T REALLY DATING OR ANYTHING.
THAT'S TOTALLY A DATE.
IT WASN'T REALLY A DATE, THOUGH. JUST A MOVIE AND A DRIVE.
WAIT, KEIO UNIVERSITY? WHAT?
REALLY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE TOTALLY DATING.
YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WENT TO THAT PARTY AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN HIROO? AND THERE WAS A GROUP OF COLLEGE GUYS WHO CAME, TOO, RIGHT?
POOR SHUN-CHAN

WHAT? BUT...
YOU'RE THE WORST!
ANYWAY, WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
SO WE MET UP THERE...
WELL, I WAS ALREADY IN AOYAMA TO BUY SHUN-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT,
YOU BOUGHT A PRESENT FOR ANOTHER GUY BEFORE YOUR DATE?
...I DON'T THINK I CAN LIKE A GUY WHO WAITS IN LINE FOR 30 MINUTES JUST TO HAVE ICE CREAM...
LUCKY! I HAVEN'T BEEN YET... HOW WAS IT?
OH YOU WENT TO HAAGEN DAZS?
IT WAS JUST ICE CREAM.

BEFORE I STARTED DATING KIUCHI-KUN, I SAW THIS BOY FROM KEIO HIYOSHI HIGH SCHOOL A FEW TIMES AND...
THINKING ABOUT KEIO ALWAYS MAKES MY HEART ACHE, THOUGH.
WHAT!? I NEVER HEARD ABOUT THAT!
YOU'RE NO FUN!
WE WAITED 30 MINUTES. FOR THAT, IT HAD BETTER BE THE BEST ICE CREAM EVER.
WANT TO GO FOR A DRIVE WITH US?
OH, NOT REALLY...
NOT A DRIVE AGAIN
...
HEY, ARE YOU GIRLS WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
...
BUT MAYBE YOU COULD BUY US DRINKS...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT A DRIVE...
SLURP

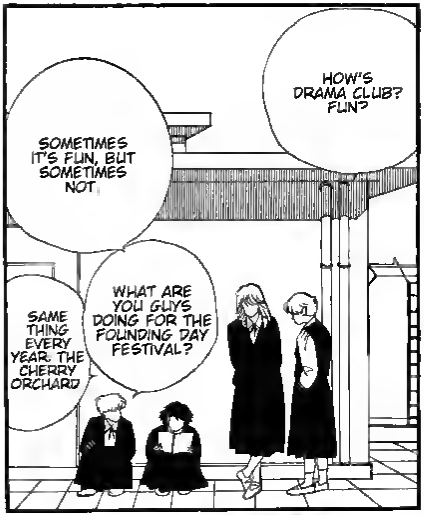

HOW COME?
I HATE GUYS WHO HIT ON YOU LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, IT'S JUST DUMB.
REALLY?
TOO BAD THEY WERE KINDA CUTE.
DO THEY REALLY THINK WE'RE GONNA SLEEP WITH THEM FOR THAT?
THEY BUY YOU DRINKS AND FOOD AND THINK THEY'RE GONNA GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT.
THEY'RE JUST IDIOTS FOR WASTING THEIR MONEY LIKE THAT.
HEY, THERE'S A SALE AT LAFORET. WANNA GO?
BOYS ARE DUMB.
MM, I'VE GOT REHEARSAL.
JUST DON'T GO ANYWHERE DODGY WITH THEM, AND THEN SAY "SORRY, I'VE GOT PLANS" AND THAT'S IT.
SO WHAT? IF THEY WANT TO DO IT, WHO CARES?

"If you only looked at me once Yasha You're going away leaving me behind..."

AHAHAHA...
SUGIYAMA-SAN, DON'T BE SHY...

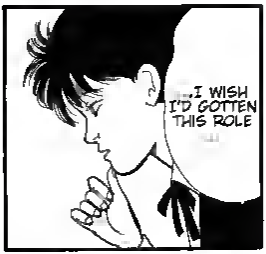
Being in the drama club at a girls school feels futile... but everyone has to join some club or other so I picked this one
SORRY, SHIMIZU-SAN, ONE MORE TIME...
ALL RIGHT, FROM THE THIRD LINE...

"In six days I'll be again in Paris Tomorrow we get into the express and off we go..."
"What's the use of crying?"


HOW'S DRAMA CLUB? FUN?
SOMETIMES IT'S FUN, BUT SOMETIMES NOT.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING FOR THE FOUNDING DAY FESTIVAL?
SAME THING EVERY YEAR. THE CHERRY ORCHARD

Epikhodov:

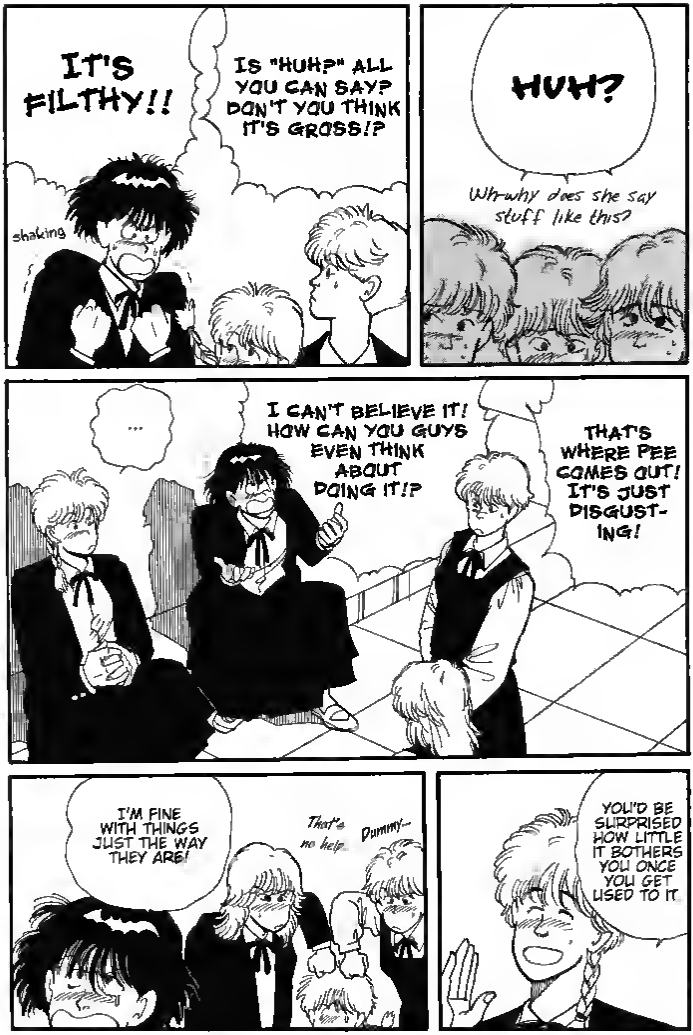
Some misfortune happens
to me every day.
But I don't complain,
I'm used to it,
and I can smile.



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IS SHUN-CHAN, YOU KNOW?
WE HAVEN'T.
REALLY? YOU'VE REALLY NEVER EVEN KISSED?
Why're you looking at me like that?
WE REALLY HAVEN'T.

Note: There's an old wives' tale that dark nipples are a sign that a girl sleeps around

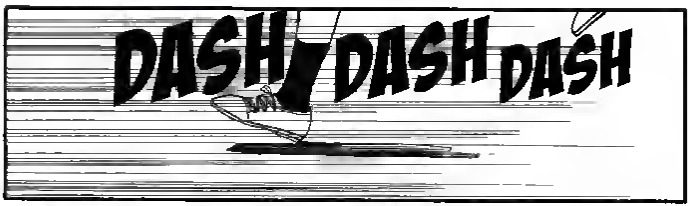
HOW COME IT'S NEVER HAPPENED?
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN DATING SINCE JUNIOR HIGH, THOUGH, RIGHT?
AHAHAHA, VERY FUNNY, AHAHAHA!
HOW'S INOUE-KUN DOING? AHAHAHAHA!
YOSHIKO-SAN, HAVE YOUR NIPPLES GOTTEN DARKER LATELY?
IS WHY IT EVER WOULD HAPPEN.
WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW
BUT GUYS DON'T EVEN WIPE WHEN THEY PEE!
I NEVER KNEW THIS UNTIL MY DAD TOLD ME,
HUH?

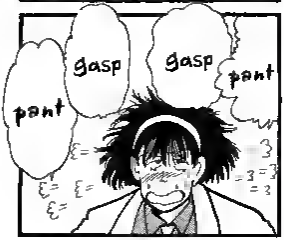

IT'S FILTHY!!
IS "HUH?" ALL YOU CAN SAY? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S GROSS!?
shaking
HUH?
Wh-why does she say stuff like this?
...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOW CAN YOU GUYS EVEN THINK ABOUT DOING IT!?
THAT'S WHERE PEE COMES OUT! IT'S JUST DISGUST-ING!
I'M FINE WITH THINGS JUST THE WAY THEY ARE!
That's no help.
Dummy~
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW LITTLE IT BOTHERS YOU ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.

I shouldn't have said that.

I'm not going to give into any boy. I swear I won't let anyone wear me down.

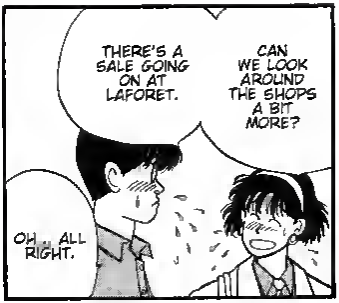
I know I can get through this.





HERE! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
SORRY
YOU'RE LATE!
WOW, THIS IS PRETTY NICE, THANKS! I'LL WEAR IT TO SCHOOL.
OOH, A COTTON SHIRT.
Haven't you ever heard of an Oxford shirt...?
GO ON, OPEN IT.
I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE?
OH, THANKS
AND YOU'RE GONNA WEAR IT UNDER A GAKURAN!?
IT'S A STATUS SYMBOL!
THAT'S A BROOKS BROTHERS SHIRT!
Uh...
UNDER YOUR GAKURAN?
WHAT!? TO SCHOOL!?
WHAT? WHY NOT?

WELL...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ...?
NOW...
KEY WEST CLUB
They're at a pedestrian mall.
AND BEFORE THAT, TOO
He said the same thing last week..
I GUESS WE COULD GO TO THE PARK.
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO..
HE'S REALLY NOT PULLING OFF THE CASUAL ACT.
HE THINKS HE'S BEING SO SMOOTH



This is all such a pain

I just want to have fun

I know the ordinary girls in our class hate us.

They're always talking about how we're so "shameless".

But so what? We just want to be left alone.

They're just jealous because they wish they could hang out with boys too.

THEN THEY SHOULD JUST DO WHATEVER THEY WANT, TOO.
DO THEY NOT LIKE THAT WE DO WHATEVER WE WANT?
YOU THINK SO? IF YOU ASK ME, THAT'S WHAT TAKES MORE GUTS
I GUESS THEY DON'T HAVE THE GUTS?
IT'S EASIER FOR THEM TO JUST BE GOOD GIRLS.
And Yoshiko just broke up with her boyfriend, but is already dating someone else
As for me...
Saya-chan cycles through boys like nobody's business
Narusawa has a boyfriend in college.

EXCUSE ME..
I wonder how he thinks of me.
I guess I've got Shun-chan.
Oh shit!
HUH?
YOU'RE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, AREN'T YOU?
SHOW US YOUR SCHOOL IDS.
...
CRYING WON'T HELP.
wah wah wah
sniff sniff sniff
AND WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
I NEED YOUR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GIRLS WERE SMOKING
wah
wah
WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL? IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE OUT, ISN'T IT?
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO SLUTS LIKE YOU? YOU'LL GET SNATCHED UP BY THE YAKUZA AND SOLD INTO PROSTITUTION!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
OH, THERE SHE GOES AGAIN.
SO WOULD IT BE OK TO SMOKE IF WE WERE BOYS?
JEEZ
wah
WOW, SO WE'RE LIKE, JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

SO WHAT IF HE DID?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE CALLED US SLUTS
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY SAID IT. HOW EMBARRASSING.
THAT JUST SHOWS A LACK OF IMAGINATION.
MY CRYING WOULD HAVE WORKED IF YOU'D JUST APOLOGIZED RIGHT AWAY.
...IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT FOR TRYING TO BE FUNNY.
I BET THEY NOTIFIED THE SCHOOL.
THIS IS REALLY GETTING ME DOWN. I BET THEY CALLED MY PARENTS.
HE WAS ALL UP ON HIS HIGH HORSE, JUST LIKE MY DAD.
BUT..

NORIKO!
NORIKO!
COME DOWN-STAIRS, DINNER'S READY.
YOUR DAD'S IN THE BATH.
NOPE.
YOU DON'T WANT ANY? AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT?
I DON'T WANT ANY.
..
PAT PAT PAT PAT
FINE, BE THAT WAY.

I wonder why I don't really like my parents.
STUPID DAD REALLY HIT ME HARD.
OW.
Oh, the neighbor's cherry tree is blooming.
When did that happen?
They're my parents, so I do love them, but that's not enough to make me respect them.
It was the spring of fifth grade.
The late-blooming cherry blossoms were already falling.

I cried as I washed myself over and over in the bath.

like a red crayon

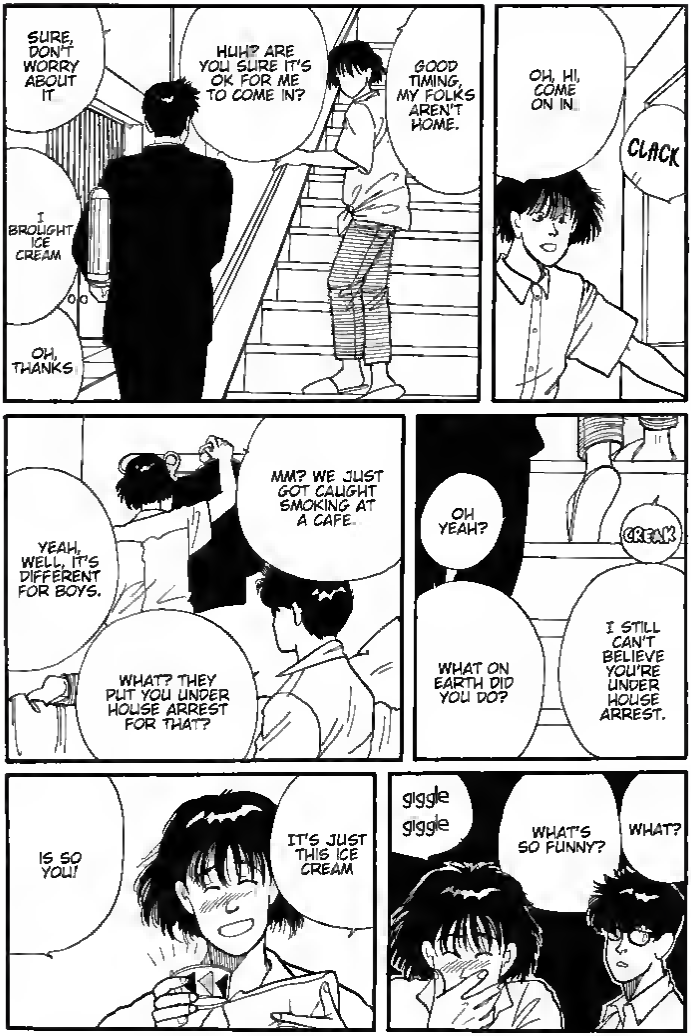
I still remember the bright red stain on my underwear,

Why did I feel so sad?

I cried until my hands and feet were cold

That night, I could barely swallow my sekihan

Note: Sekihan is a type of red beans and rice that is served on special occasions.
It used to be served when girls got their first period though that is not very common anymore.


SURE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HUH? ARE YOU SURE IT'S OK FOR ME TO COME IN?
GOOD TIMING, MY FOLKS AREN'T HOME.
I BROUGHT ICE CREAM
OH, THANKS
OH, HI, COME ON IN
CLACK
MM? WE JUST GOT CAUGHT SMOKING AT A CAFE.
YEAH, WELL, IT'S DIFFERENT FOR BOYS.
WHAT? THEY PUT YOU UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR THAT?
OH YEAH?
CREAK
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.
WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO?
IT'S JUST THIS ICE CREAM
IS SO YOU!
giggle giggle
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
WHAT?

HM?
YOU KNOW,
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO OUT AT NIGHT ALONE.
SO WHAT!?
THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM. GIRLS WANT TO STAY OUT LATE TOO SOMETIMES.
WHY?
'CAUSE SOME WEIRDO MIGHT DO SOME-THING TO YOU.
WHY...?
WELL, THAT MAY BE TRUE,
BUT THERE'S A LOT OF MEN WHO DON'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT THEIR OWN DESIRES, SO YOU SHOULD JUST BE CAREFUL!
GIRLS WANT TO DO STUFF ALONE, TOO
IT'S NOT FAIR.

LISTEN...
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, TOO, SHUN-CHAN? YOU THINK GIRLS WHO ARE OUT LATE ARE SLUTS, SO WHO CARES WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM?
YOU THINK SO, DON'T YOU?
WHAT? JUST SAY IT.
THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY THINK, ISN'T IT?
YOU DON'T REALIZE...
NEVER MIND.

He's handsome when he takes off his glasses.

NO!
MMPH!
STOP, SHUN-CHAN!

BUT I DON'T DO IT BECAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME!
I'M WAY STRONGER THAN YOU.
I COULD DO IT ANY TIME IF I REALLY WANTED TO!
OH.
YOU'RE SO CONCEITED!
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST STOMP ALL OVER A GUY'S FEELINGS!?
CRACK
SLAM
NEXT TIME YOU BUY THE ICE CREAM!

Dunyasha:

He's an unlucky man,
every day something happens
We tease him about it
They call him
"Two-and-twenty
troubles"...

PRO-PRO-PROSTITUTES!?
HUH!?
HUH?
ME, YOU DUMMY!
WH-WH-WHO!?
YIKES! NO WAY!
WHAAA!? ME!? ABORTION!? NO WAY! WHEN!?
Calm down! jeez...
THOSE ARE THE RUMORS.
NARUSAWA IS PREGNANT, AND YOU HAD AN ABORTION.
SAYA AND ME ARE PROSTI-TUTES.

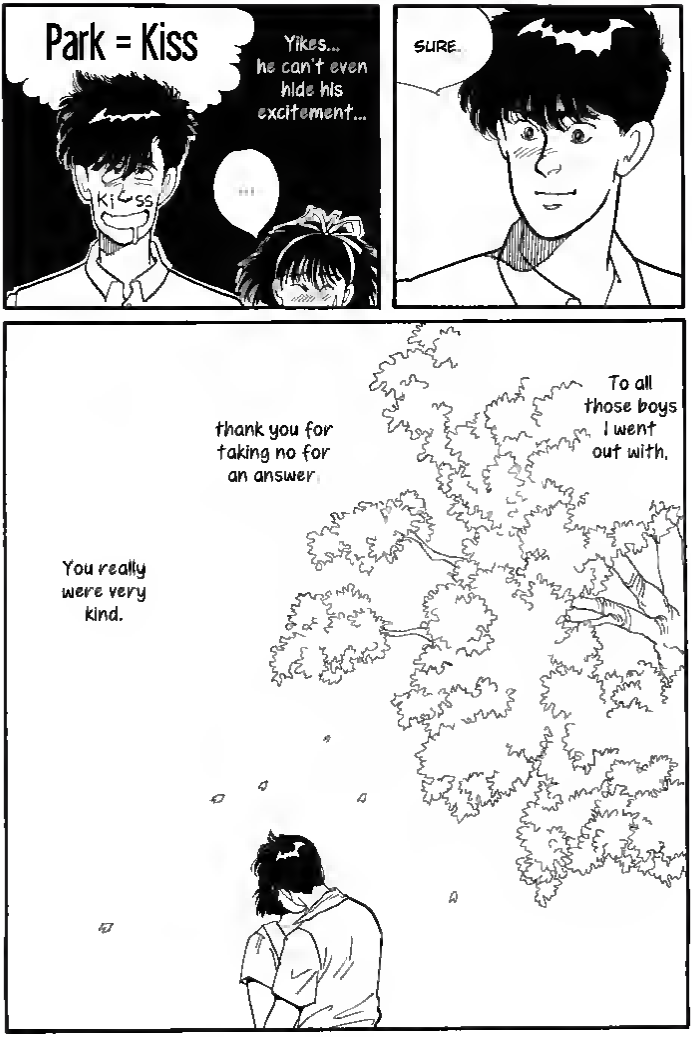
YEAH, BUT NOT EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT.
WHAAT!? B-BUT IT WAS MY TIME OF MONTH AND WE HAD A LONG-DISTANCE RACE...
YOU SAT OUT GYM LAST WEEK, REMEMBER?
YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHO'S BEHIND THE RUMORS
UGH, THIS REALLY PISSES ME OFF.
Yowwww...
NO DOUBT. I TOTALLY BET THEY WOULD MAYBE NAKAHARA TAMIKO, TOO...
SAKATA FROM CLASS C, AND PROBABLY IWASE.
Don't be ridiculous. I'm still a virgin!

DO WE REALLY STAND OUT THAT MUCH?
THEY TOTALLY SPLIT US UP FOR THIRD YEAR, THOUGH...
THEY'RE TER-RIBLE.
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG, SAYA?
DON'T LET THEM GET TO YOU...
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME, BUT THAT REALLY HURTS.
I'VE BEEN WITH A LOT OF GUYS,
BUT I'D NEVER SELL MYSELF. I'VE NEVER TAKEN MONEY FOR ANYTHING.

YOU'D NEVER GO OUT WITH SOMEONE JUST FOR KICKS. I THINK THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING.
YOU FALL IN LOVE EASILY, BUT YOU WON'T EVEN HOLD HANDS WITH A BOY YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE.
YEAH.
I PISSED OFF SHUN-CHAN YESTERDAY.
COMPARED TO YOU, I'M A LOT MORE IRRESPONSIBLE.
I UNDERESTIMATED HIM... I THOUGHT I COULD RESIST ANY GUY, NO MATTER WHAT HE TRIED.
YEAH...
I THOUGHT I WAS DIFFERENT. BUT HE SAID I WAS CONCEITED.
BUT HE'S USUALLY SO EASY-GOING.
WHAT?

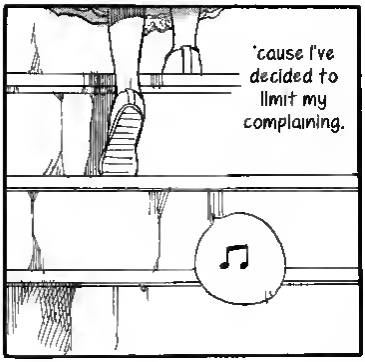
MAYBE WITHOUT MEANING TO, WE'VE BEEN PUTTING OUT A VIBE OF "I'M DIFFERENT THAN YOU"...
MAYBE THEY THOUGHT WE WERE SHOWING OFF BY HANGING OUT WITH BOYS.
THOSE RUMORS ARE TOO MUCH... BUT I THINK I KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE GIRLS WOULD FEEL THEY HAD TO SAY THAT KIND OF STUFF...
YEAH, WELL, I THINK THEY TOOK IT TOO FAR.
YEAH, BUT THOSE RUMORS ARE TERRIBLE.
IF WE'RE GONNA BE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, THEN WE CAN'T LET THIS SORT OF THING GET TO US, EITHER.
BUT...

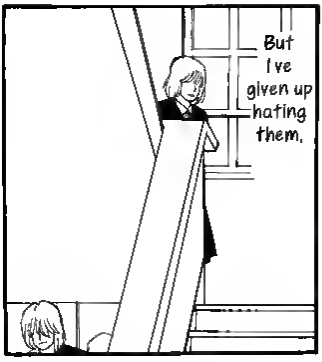
YEAH, IT TAKES GUTS TO REALLY BE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY.
WE HAVE TO BE STRONG.
YEAH, THERE'S A LOT OF TRIALS AND TRIBULA-TIONS...
Hahaha...
HEY, D'YOU WANT TO GO TO THE PARK?
I'LL BUY YOU ICE CREAM
HUH?
Contact lenses


Park = Kiss
Yikes... he can't even hide his excitement...
Kiss
...
SURE.
To all those boys I went out with,
thank you for taking no for an answer.
You really were very kind.

The warmth of
Shun-chan's lips
left a faint pink like
cherry blossoms
on my neck.

SEE YOU LATER!
SLAM
tweak
HEY, DID YOU WATCH THE BEST 10 LAST NIGHT?
MORNING!
MORNING
MORNING!
M-MOR-NING
We're still delinquents
and the ordinary girls still hate us
ignore
squee
squee



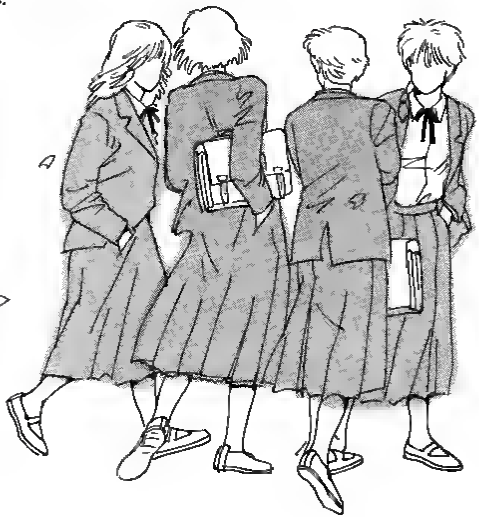


and that's enough to make me feel like life can be fun.

and a boy I like

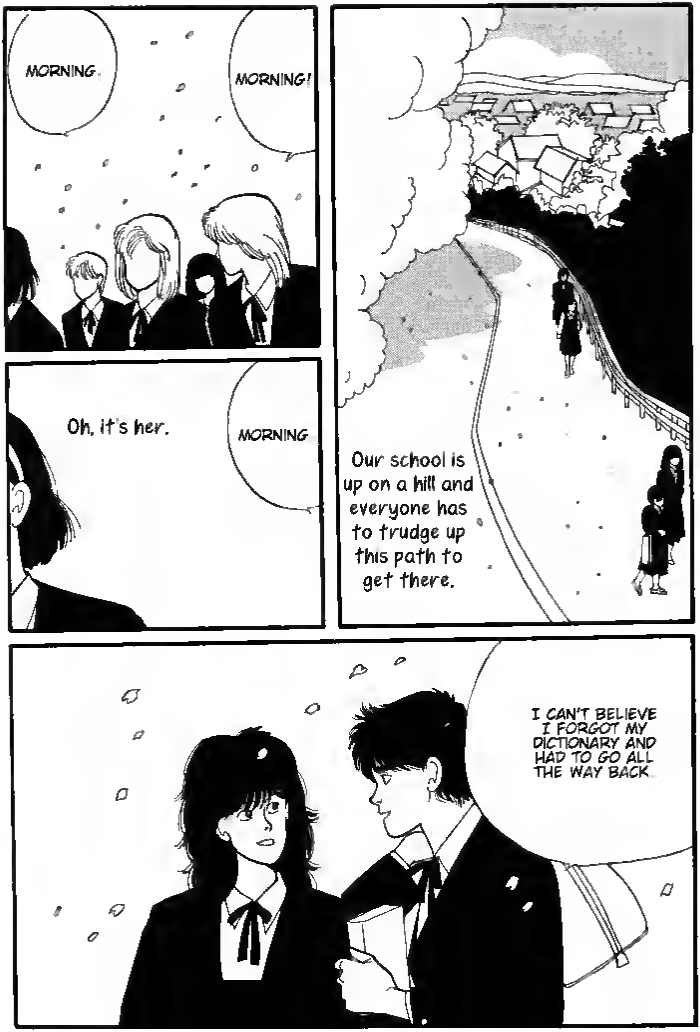
After all, I've got great friends

I can't give up dawdling, though.



Drunk on Flowers

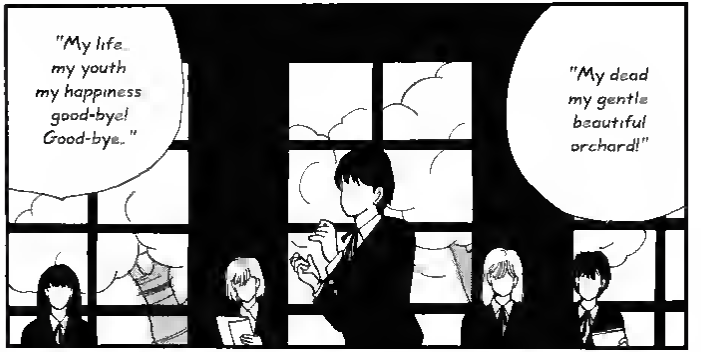
I hate spring.
The wind is too strong.


MORNING.
MORNING!
Oh, it's her.
MORNING
Our school is up on a hill and everyone has to trudge up this path to get there.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I FORGOT MY DICTIONARY AND HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY BACK.

OH, GOOD MORNING.
MORNING
IT SURE IS WINDY.
No.
YEAH, THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WILL ALL BLOW AWAY.
This isn't what I want to talk about.
SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL.
BYE!

JEEZ!
Eek!
whoosh

The wind scatters the late-blooming cherry blossoms and stirs up my heart.

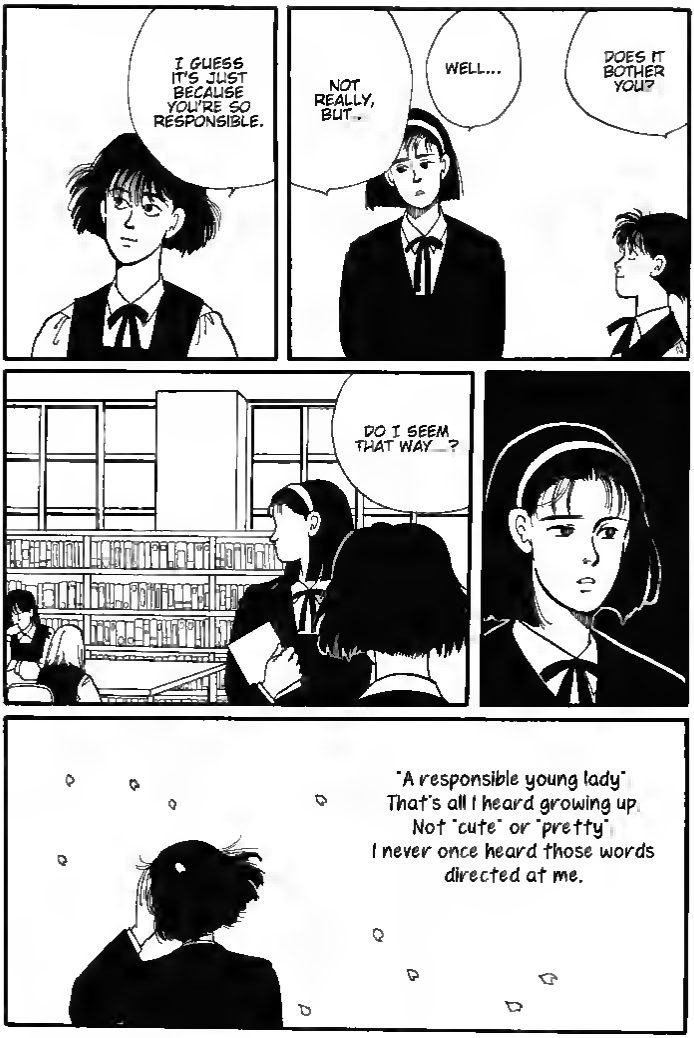

"My life... my youth my happiness good-bye! Good-bye..."
"My dead my gentle beautiful orchard!"

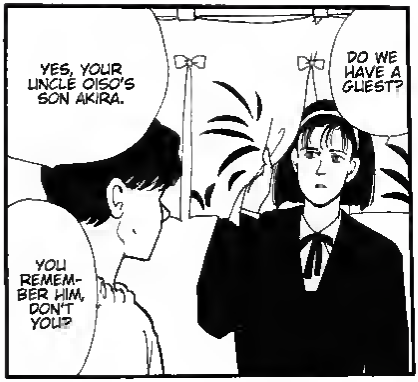
"To look at the walls and the windows for the last time. My dead mother used to like to walk about this room..."
"Mother...!"
AND NAKANO-SAN, ANYA'S VOICE SHOULD BE A LITTLE QUIETER, AS IF SHE'S CALLING FROM FAR AWAY.
I THINK WE SHOULD MOVE THAT CHAIR TO THE LEFT A BIT.
THAT'S IT, KURATA-SAN.
OK.

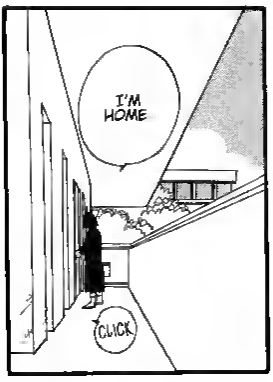
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO JOKE ABOUT.
STOP THAT, YOU TWO
WHAT IF IT'S NOT TRUE?
BESIDES, YOU SHOULDN'T BE CHATTING DURING PRACTICE ANYWAY
What? Really?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR SUGIYAMA-SAN AND HER FRIENDS ARE PROSTITUTES?
Maybe that's why everyone's so distant with me. I'm always lecturing..
Ugh, there I go being a busybody again.
SORRY...
OH, RIGHT...
I mean, I don't really like them either, but...
RATTLE

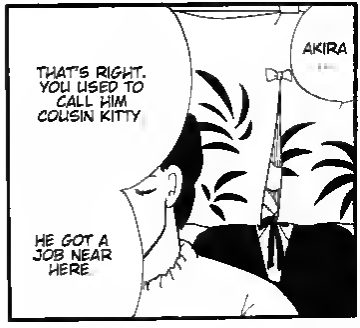
OH.
I'D LIKE TO CHECK THIS OUT.
OF COURSE
WELL, I AM A LIBRARY ASSISTANT, AFTER ALL, EVEN IF I DON'T SHOW UP MOST OF THE TIME.
I COULD SAY THE SAME, SUGIYAMA-SAN...
YOU'RE STILL HERE, SHIMIZU-SAN?
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO STAND UP FOR ME... I FIGURED YOU HATED ME, I SKIP PRACTICE A LOT, AFTER ALL.
THANKS, BY THE WAY.
JUST WRITE YOUR NAME AND CLASS
SURE.

OK
ALL RIGHT, WELL, THE DUE DATE IS A WEEK FROM TODAY
OH... UH... IT'S NOTHING
WHY DOES EVERYONE SPEAK SO POLITELY TO ME?
UM... SUGIYAMA-SAN?
I MAY BE CLUB PRESIDENT, BUT WE'RE STILL IN THE SAME YEAR...
OH... WELL... I GUESS BECAUSE YOU'RE THE CLUB PRESIDENT ...
HUH?

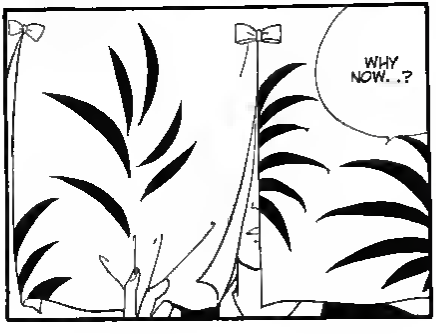

I GUESS IT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SO RESPONSIBLE.
NOT REALLY, BUT...
WELL...
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
DO I SEEM THAT WAY—?
"A responsible young lady"
That's all I heard growing up.
Not "cute" or "pretty"
I never once heard those words
directed at me.



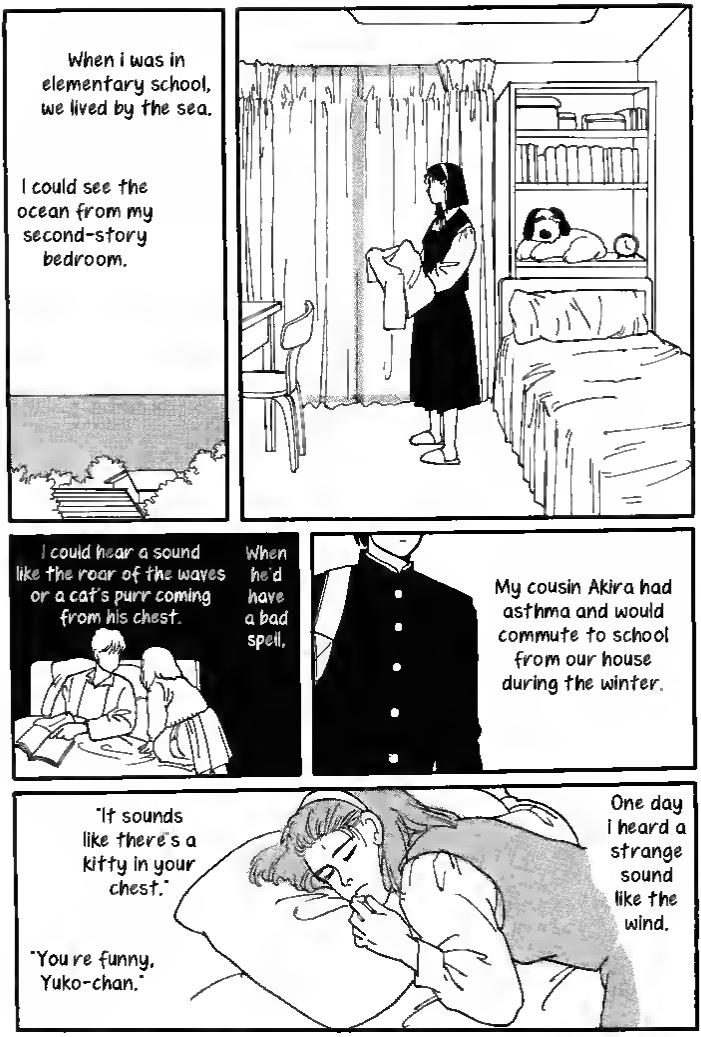




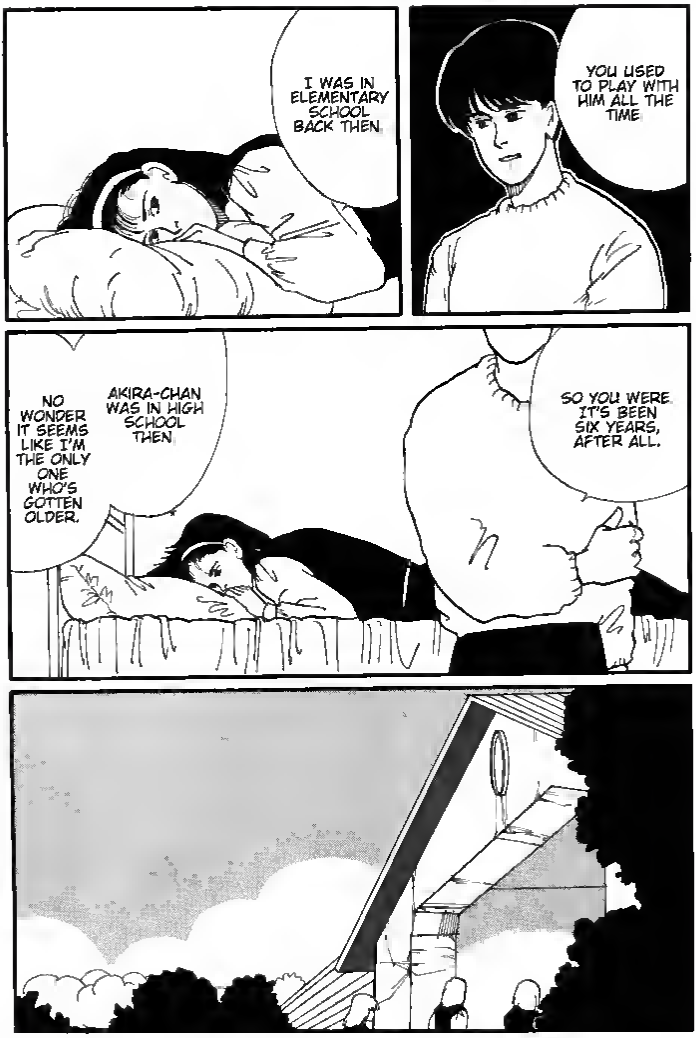
I had tried to forget.



OF COURSE
CLATTER
YUKO-CHAN!? WOW...YOU'VE REALLY GROWN! DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
WEL-COME
flick
CHILDHOOD ASTHMA USUALLY GOES AWAY AS AN ADULT.
HUH? OH YEAH, I'M FINE.
IS... YOUR ASTHMA ALL BETTER?
I SEE ..


When I was in elementary school, we lived by the sea.
I could see the ocean from my second-story bedroom.
I could hear a sound like the roar of the waves or a cat's purr coming from his chest.
When he'd have a bad spell,
My cousin Akira had asthma and would commute to school from our house during the winter.
One day I heard a strange sound like the wind.
"It sounds like there's a kitty in your chest."
"You're funny, Yuko-chan."

He was my first love.
DON'T YOU WANT TO VISIT WITH AKIRA-CHAN?
HM?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY'RE YOU HOLED UP IN YOUR ROOM?
YUKO?


I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BACK THEN.
YOU USED TO PLAY WITH HIM ALL THE TIME.
NO WONDER IT SEEMS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOTTEN OLDER.
AKIRA-CHAN WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL THEN.
SO YOU WERE. IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS, AFTER ALL.

JOIN THE MANGA CLUB!
OH, THANKS.
I'LL COVER FOR YOU. WHY DON'T YOU GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
JOIN THE GYMNASTICS CLUB!
NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS!
Drama Club
I WONDER HOW MANY WILL STICK IT OUT INSTEAD OF GETTING BORED AND QUITTING.
I WONDER HOW MANY NEW MEMBERS WE'LL GET THIS YEAR
UM, CAN I SHAKE YOUR HAND?
SURE...
GOOD LUCK WITH "THE CHERRY ORCHARD"! WE'LL BE WATCHING!
KURATA-SENPAI!

SHIMIZU-SAN, WANT TO GET SOMETHING TO DRINK?
DON'T BE SILLY WHY WOULD I WANT TO BE POPULAR WITH GIRLS?
THAT ROLE IN DRAG LAST YEAR REALLY WORKED OUT FOR YOU
YOU'RE SO POPULAR!
SHIMIZU-SAN?
HUH? OH, SURE.
HM?
SHIMIZU-SAN.

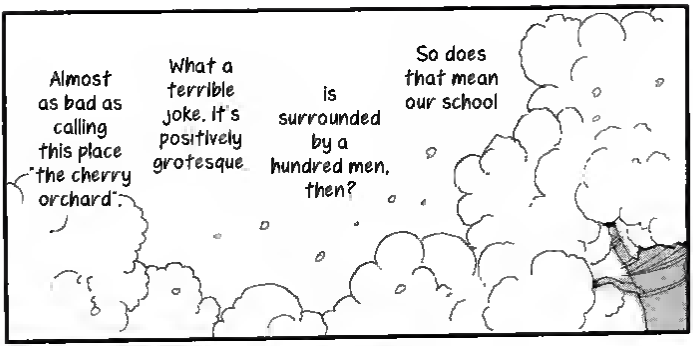
SHIMIZU-SAN. . YOU LIKE KURATA-SAN, DON'T YOU?
WHAT DO I MEAN ...?
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I MEAN JUST WHAT I SAID.

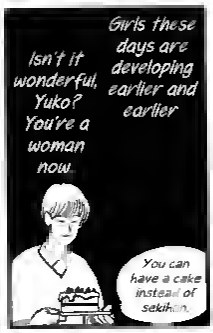
I JUST GOT THAT FEELING IS ALL...
SUGIYAMA-SAN, WHY DID YOU COME TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL?
HUH?
HMM... I DON'T KNOW IT'S JUST A FEELING...
WHAT MADE YOU THINK THAT?
I'M NOT ACCUSING YOU OF BEING A LESBIAN OR ANYTHING...
IT CAN BE PRETTY TOUGH FOR GIRLS AT CO-ED SCHOOLS WHEN THEY'RE ON THEIR PERIODS AND STUFF.
BUT IT TURNED OUT OK. I MADE SOME GOOD FRIENDS.
AND I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT BOYS THINK.
I WOULD'VE RATHER GONE TO A CO-ED SCHOOL.
WELL... MY DAD KIND OF FORCED ME INTO IT.

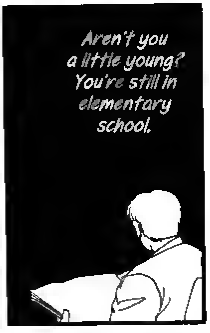
WHAT? HOW CRUEL!
ONE OF THE BOYS SAW ME AND TEASED ME MERCILESSLY
OH YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DID GET A LOT OF FLACK FOR THAT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TOO
SO THEY HAVE TO KEEP A SECRET STASH IN THE BATHROOM AT ALL TIMES.
THE BOYS NOTICE IF THEY TAKE A POUCH WITH PADS IN IT TO THE BATHROOM,
YEAH, HE WAS AWFUL.
WHAT A BRAT!
I HAD IT WRAPPED UP IN A HANDKERCHIEF AND HE TOOK IT OUT AND YELLED "SHIMIZU, WHAT'S THIS!?" IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.
YEAH, HE WAS CRUEL.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM.

BUT TO ME HE'LL ALWAYS BE
THE BOY WHO WAVED MY PAD AROUND THAT TIME
HE COULD GROW UP TO DO WONDERFUL THINGS,
"BOYS WILL BE BOYS" IS NO EXCUSE
YEAH, I REMEMBER BOYS LIKE THAT, TOO.
THIS ONE GIRL HAD PRETTY BIG BREASTS ALREADY AND THE BOYS USED TO SNAP HER BRA STRAPS.
THEY MADE HER CRY.
I'LL HOLD A GRUDGE FOREVER.
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT HE DID.

YEAH... I GUESS THAT DID PLAY A PRETTY BIG ROLE IN MY DECISION.
IS THAT WHY YOU CAME TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL?
THERE'S NO NEED TO FORGIVE HIM
YOU'RE RIGHT
THE SPIRITS OF CHERRY TREES ARE MALE
HEY, DID YOU KNOW?
WHAT?
DON'T TEASE
AHAHA, OH, SHIMIZU-SAN
IT'S TRUE CHERRY SPIRITS ARE MALE, THOUGH
YOU REALLY DO HATE BOYS, DON'T YOU?
cringe
HUH!?

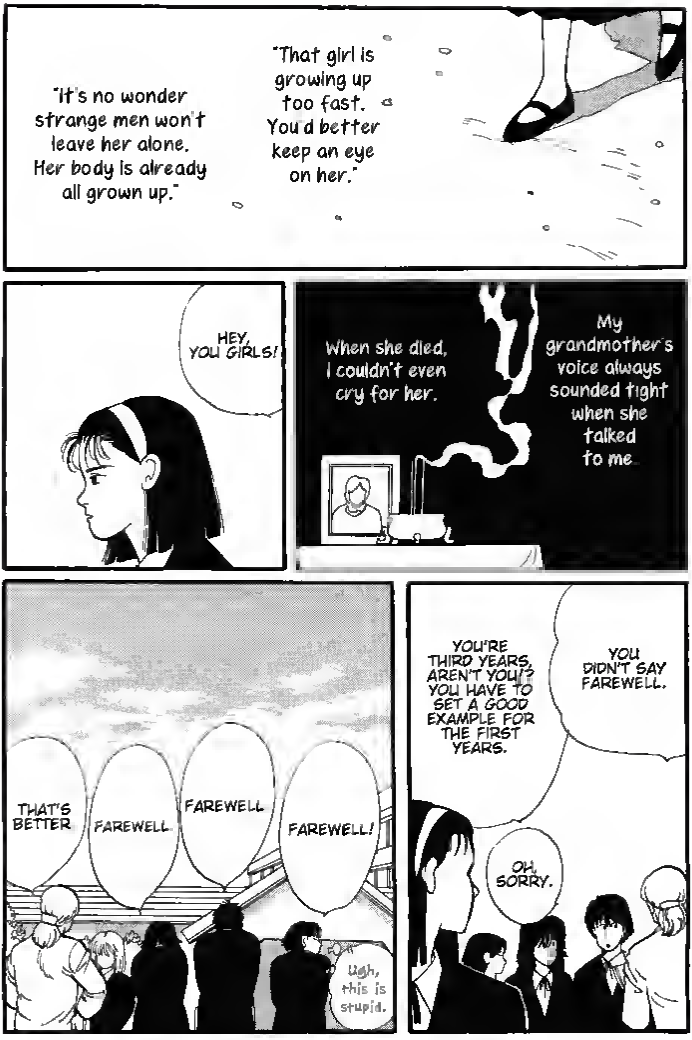

Almost as bad as calling this place "the cherry orchard".
What a terrible joke. It's positively grotesque.
is surrounded by a hundred men, then?
So does that mean our school


Isn't it wonderful, Yuko? You're a woman now.
Girls these days are developing earlier and earlier.
You can have a cake instead of sekihan.



My father looked at me as if I were an alien.

I was in 4th grade when it happened.

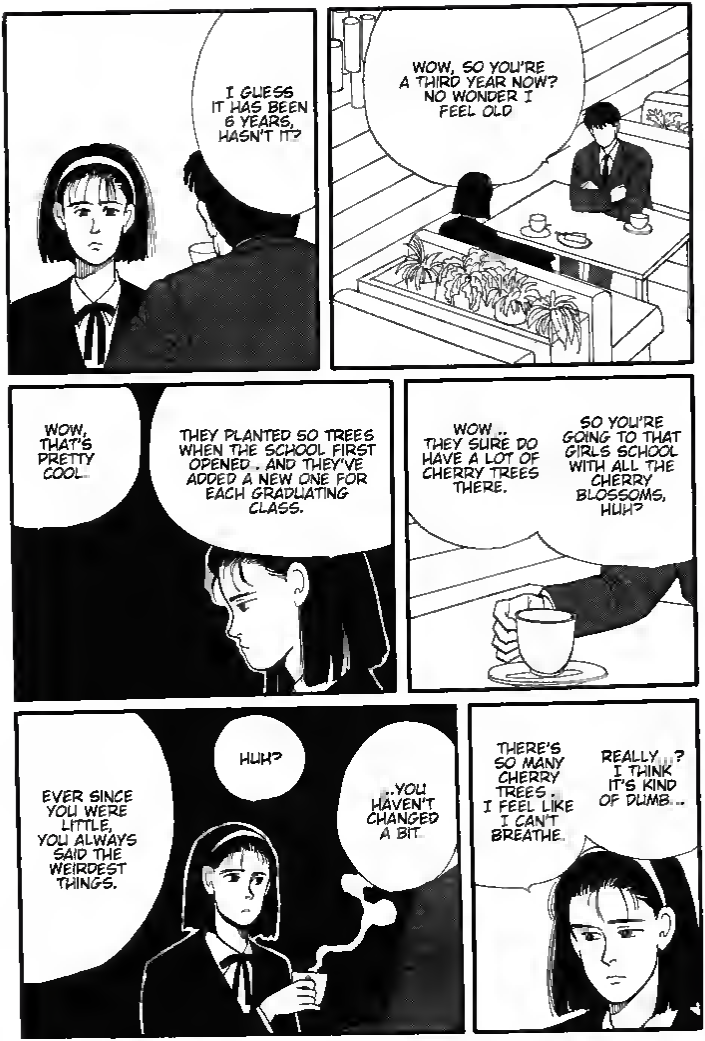

"It's no wonder strange men won't leave her alone. Her body is already all grown up."
"That girl is growing up too fast. You'd better keep an eye on her."
HEY, YOU GIRLS!
When she died, I couldn't even cry for her.
My grandmother's voice always sounded tight when she talked to me.
THAT'S BETTER
FAREWELL
FAREWELL
FAREWELL!
Ugh, this is stupid.
YOU'RE THIRD YEARS, AREN'T YOU!? YOU HAVE TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE FIRST YEARS.
YOU DIDN'T SAY FAREWELL.
OH, SORRY.

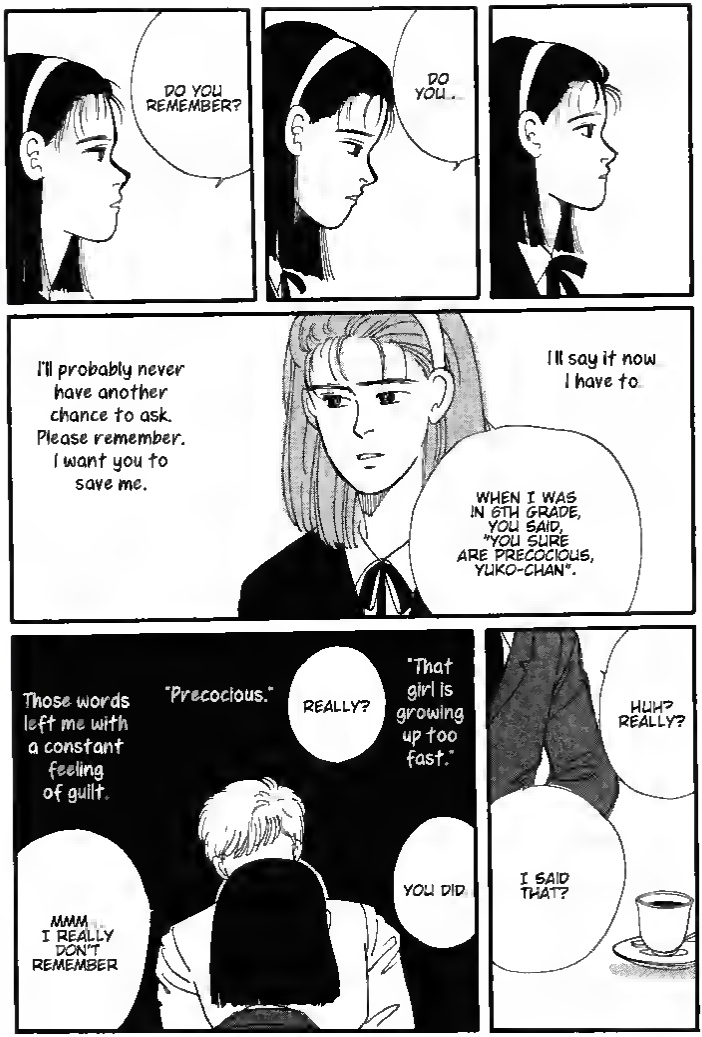
THERE'S NO ESCAPING IT NOW. IT'S TRADITION
SIGH... HOW LONG'RE THEY GONNA KEEP THAT UP?

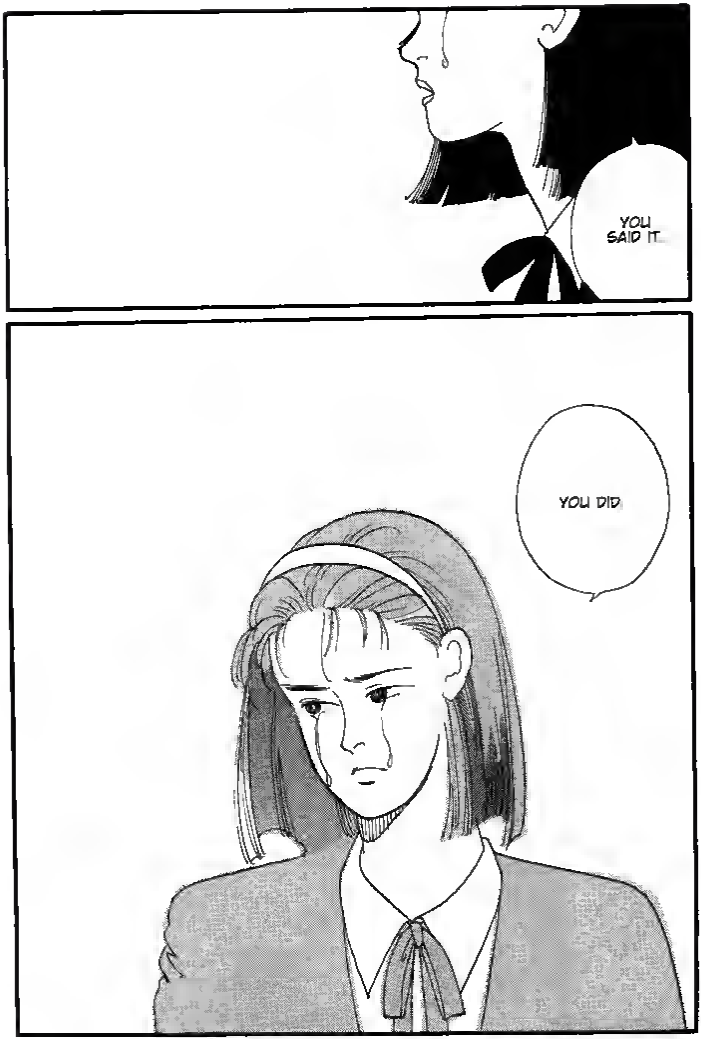
I realized that a while ago.

She looks like him around the eyes and mouth.

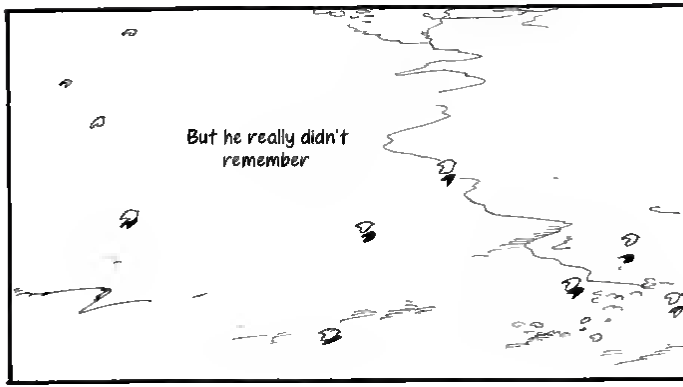
YLIKO-CHAN!
ARE YOU HEADING HOME NOW?
YEAH...
I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT..
..OK
I HAD TO DROP IN AT ONE OF OUR BRANCH OFFICES NEARBY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WANT TO GET TEA? I'LL BUY YOU CAKE.


I GUESS IT HAS BEEN 6 YEARS, HASN'T IT?
WOW, SO YOU'RE A THIRD YEAR NOW? NO WONDER I FEEL OLD
WOW, THAT'S PRETTY COOL..
THEY PLANTED 50 TREES WHEN THE SCHOOL FIRST OPENED . AND THEY'VE ADDED A NEW ONE FOR EACH GRADUATING CLASS.
WOW .. THEY SURE DO HAVE A LOT OF CHERRY TREES THERE.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO THAT GIRLS SCHOOL WITH ALL THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, HUH?
EVER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU ALWAYS SAID THE WEIRDEST THINGS.
HUH?
..YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT..
THERE'S SO MANY CHERRY TREES . I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T BREATHE.
REALLY ..? I THINK IT'S KIND OF DUMB...


DO YOU REMEMBER?
DO YOU...
I'll probably never have another chance to ask. Please remember. I want you to save me.
I'll say it now. I have to.
WHEN I WAS IN 6TH GRADE, YOU SAID, "YOU SURE ARE PRECOCIOUS, YUKO-CHAN".
Those words left me with a constant feeling of guilt.
"Precocious."
REALLY?
"That girl is growing up too fast."
MMM... I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER
YOU DID
HUH? REALLY?
I SAID THAT?


YOU SAID IT...
YOU DID

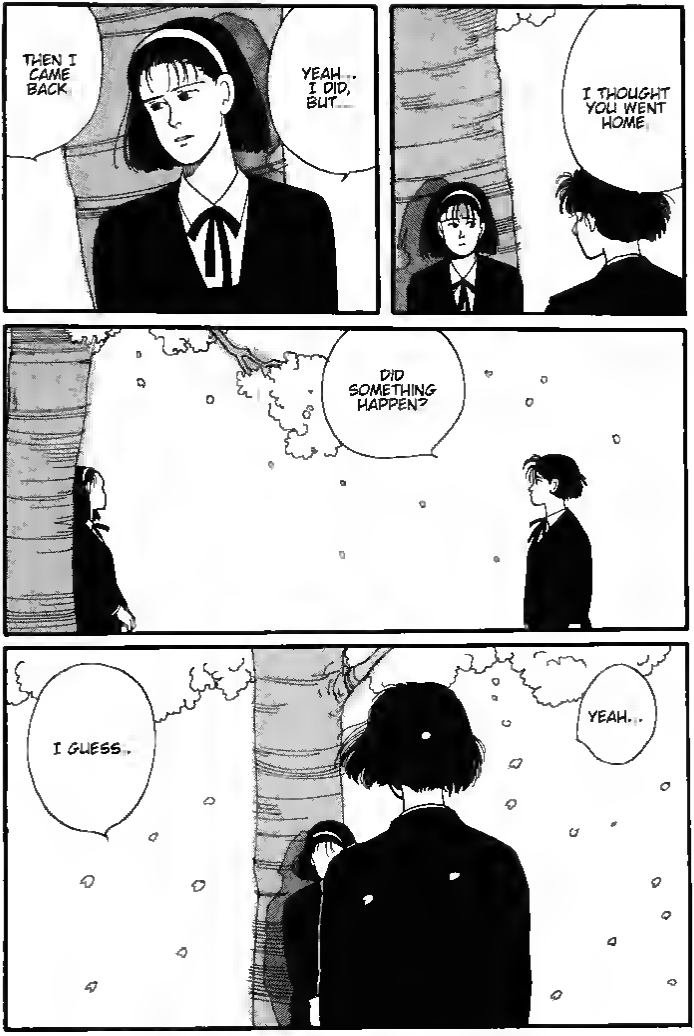
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUH? YUKO-CHAN?
JEEZ ..
I'd already kind of guessed...
SORRY, OK? DID IT BOTHER YOU THAT MUCH?


But he really didn't remember

All those boys and those men.
They'd all probably say they didn't remember.
But I can't forget.
My chest feels like it's being ripped open.
I bound my budding breasts and unconsciously hunched my shoulders as I walked.
Is it my own misery or the ache of my abused breasts?

OH, I SEEM TO HAVE COME BACK TO SCHOOL...
HUH?
HOW PRETTY...

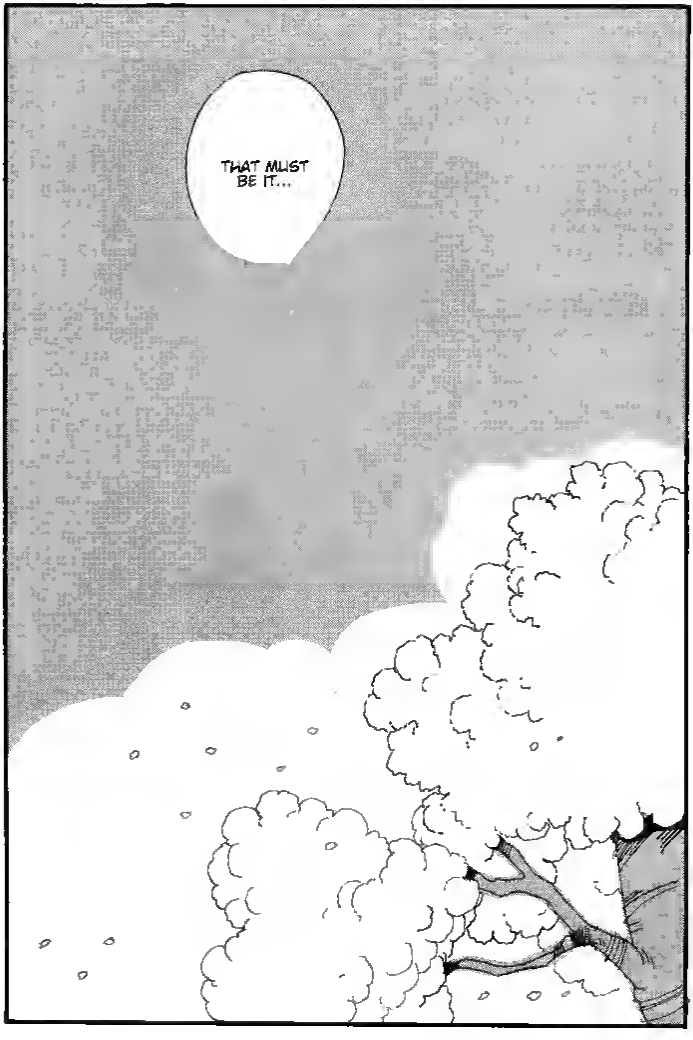
SHIMIZU-SAAAAN!
ARE YOU SURE? WHAT IS IT?
SORRY, YOU GUYS GO ON WITHOUT ME
MM, NOTHING IMPORTANT.
OH.


THEN I CAME BACK.
YEAH... I DID, BUT...
I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I GUESS...
YEAH...

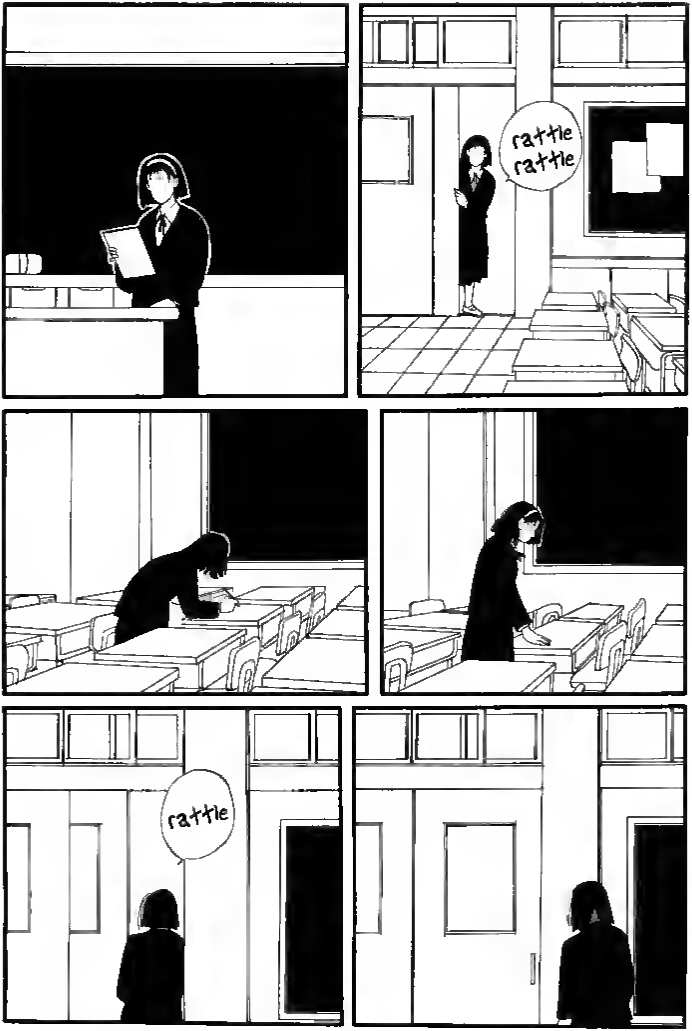
IT'S LIKE I'M DRUNK ON THE FRAGRANCE.
I LOVE THIS FEELING
HM?
SUGI-YAMA-SAN
SOON THEY'LL ALL BE GONE.
THEY'RE REALLY AT THEIR PEAK RIGHT NOW.
I KNOW.
YEAH.
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T USED TO THINK MUCH OF YOU AND NARUSAWA-SAN AND THE OTHERS

I COULD NEVER DO THAT.
MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE JEALOUS.
YOU USED TO BE A LOT MORE UNAPPROACHABLE.
YOU'VE CHANGED.
IN A LOT OF WAYS...
IT COMES WITH A PRETTY HUGE PENALTY, THOUGH.
I THINK I'VE CHANGED, TOO.
YOU THINK SO?
I'VE QUIT BEMOANING THE FACT THAT NO ONE RESPECTS ME. I JUST HAVE TO RESPECT MYSELF, THAT'S ALL.
I'VE DECIDED TO BE MORE OPTIMISTIC.

I SEE.
YOU WERE RIGHT WHEN YOU SAID I LIKED KURATA-SAN
SHE JUST DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A GIRL. I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S NOTHING FAKE ABOUT HER. I WANT TO BE LIKE THAT.
BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING,
SHE LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE I LOVED.


THAT MUST BE IT...

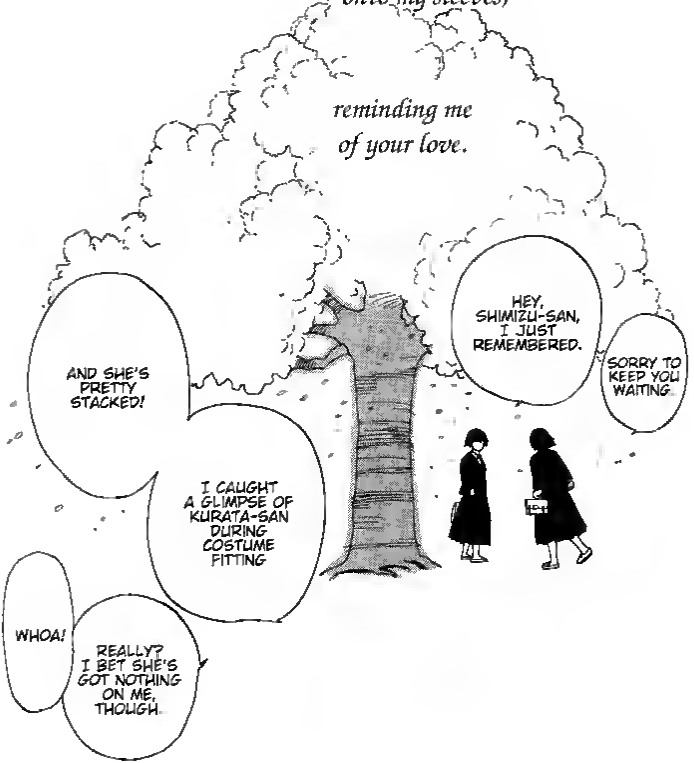
WHAT?
...OH, WAIT...
YEAH.
WANT TO GO GET ICE CREAM?
YEAH... KIND OF...
SURE. FORGET SOME-THING?
...HEY, CAN YOU WAIT FOR ME AT THE FRONT GATE?
HANG ON, I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC.


rattle
rattle
rattle

Scattered by
the breeze,

tachibana petals flutter
onto my sleeves,

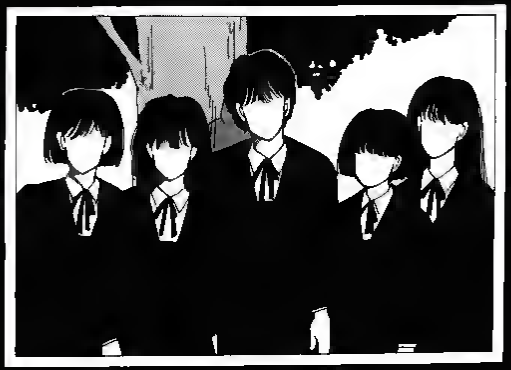
reminding me
of your love.


AND SHE'S PRETTY STACKED!
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF KURATA-SAN DURING COSTUME FITTING
WHOA!
REALLY? I BET SHE'S GOT NOTHING ON ME, THOUGH.
HEY, SHIMIZU-SAN, I JUST REMEMBERED.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

Note: The poem is from the Manyoshu.

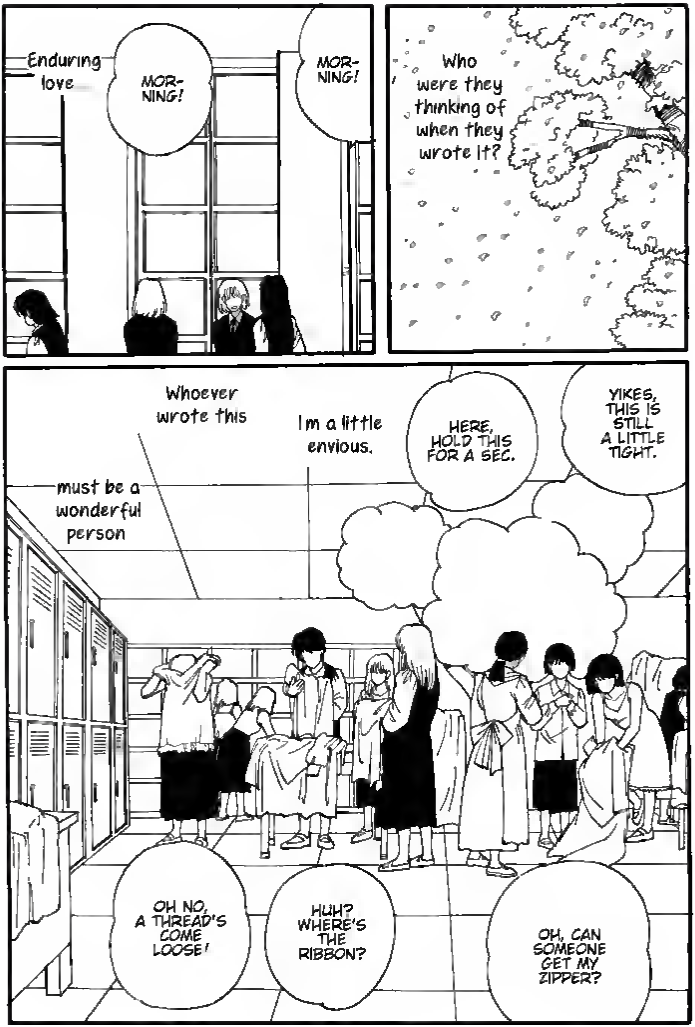
Flower Storm

It was always the same.
Whenever I took a photo with friends,
I'd unconsciously hunch my shoulders.



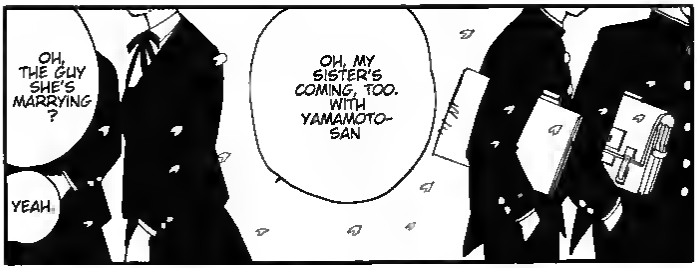
HUH?
There's something written on my desk...
HUH? OH NOTHING HANG ON A SEC
WHAT IS IT?
Scattered by the breeze,
tachibana petals flutter onto my sleeves,
reminding me of your love

I'm pretty sure I remember a poem like this.
from the Manyoshu...
Oh... this is...
How long have these faded pencil marks been here?
I wonder who wrote this poem of enduring love
I hadn't even noticed... even though it was my own desk.
OH! HANG ON, HANG ON! I'M COMING!
CLATTER
CHIYO, WE'RE LEAVING!


Enduring love
MOR-NING!
MOR-NING!
Who were they thinking of when they wrote it?
Whoever wrote this must be a wonderful person
I'm a little envious.
HERE, HOLD THIS FOR A SEC.
YIKES, THIS IS STILL A LITTLE TIGHT.
OH NO, A THREAD'S COME LOOSE!
HUH? WHERE'S THE RIBBON?
OH, CAN SOMEONE GET MY ZIPPER?

OH, REALLY?
UM, THIS IS STILL A LITTLE TIGHT IN THE CHEST..
I TOOK IT OUT QUITE A LOT.
SENSEI ...
THIS USED TO BE REALLY BAGGY.
KIDS THESE DAYS SURE ARE BIG.
HA HA HA
O-OK..
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO
THERE'S NO TIME TO FIX IT NOW, THOUGH
pat
Ugh, I feel like everyone's staring at my chest..
ALL RIGHT, LET'S TAKE IT FROM THE TOP
WH-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WOW, CHIYO, YOU SURE ARE STACKED.

JUST 5 MORE DAYS..
KURATA-SAN, DON'T HUNCH YOUR SHOULDERS!
STAND UP STRAIGHT NOW!
HEY, ATSUKO, IS SHIN-CHAN COMING?
IT'S SO EXCITING.
WELL, HE SAID HE WOULD.
OH YEAH? IF THEY'RE CUTE, YOU BETTER INTRODUCE ME.
HE SAID HE'S BRINGING SOME FRIENDS

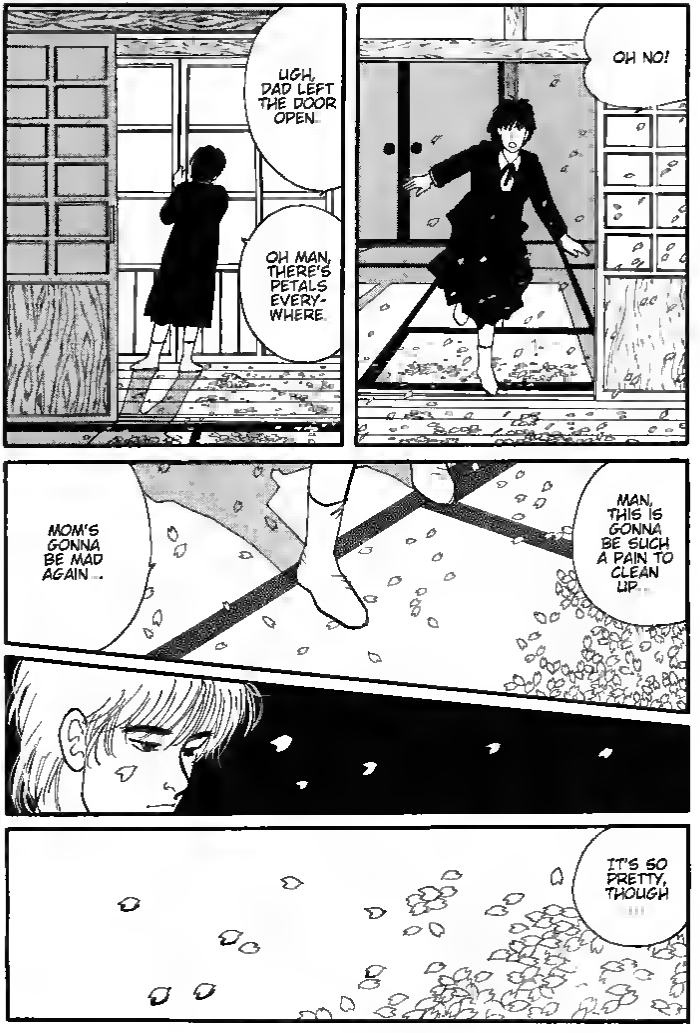

OH, THE GUY SHE'S MARRYING?
YEAH.
OH, MY SISTER'S COMING, TOO. WITH YAMAMOTO-SAN

Whenever I see him, he makes me want to curl up and I find myself unconsciously hunching my shoulders again.

I'm the only one who can't seem to stand on tiptoe.

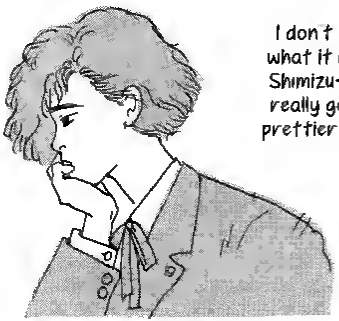
OH, LOOKS LIKE DAD'S HOME.

rattle
I'M HOME


UGH, DAD LEFT THE DOOR OPEN...
OH MAN, THERE'S PETALS EVERY-WHERE.
OH NO!
MOM'S GONNA BE MAD AGAIN...
MAN, THIS IS GONNA BE SUCH A PAIN TO CLEAN UP...
IT'S SO PRETTY, THOUGH...

SHE GOT CALLED INTO THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE.
HM?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT SHIMIZU-SAN?
☆ The Cherry Orchard
Cast of Characters
Ranevsky..... Kurata Chiyoko
Anya..... Nakano Kyoko
Varya..... Inoue Mie
Dunyasha..... Shimizu Yuko
Yasha..... Sugiyama Noriko
SHH!
BUT I HEARD SHE GOT A PERM
LIKE, A REALLY OBVIOUS ONE.
MM, I ONLY HEARD ABOUT IT FROM CHIKA-CHAN,
SO I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS.
WHAT? NO WAY!
SHIMIZU-SAN? WHY?
CLACK

WOW! WHAT HAPPENED? THAT'S SO COOL!
IT'S TRUE
RIGHT? NO WONDER SHE GOT IN TROUBLE.
..
THOSE TWO... ARE REALLY CLOSE THESE DAYS.
I LOVE IT! IT REALLY SUITS YOU!


I don't know what it is, but Shimizu-san's really gotten prettier lately.

She's looking my way again.
I've noticed Shimizu-san staring at me a lot lately.
"How's business? Has the interest been paid?"
It's not just my imagination.
"I saw the wretch."
FAREWELL.
FARE-WELL.
It makes it hard to pay attention.
I keep thinking about her.
Jeez, what's up with her?

"The Cherry Orchard" Act 1- Varya & Anya's conversation

IT SEEMS PRETTY TIGHT.
HUH?
THAT DRESS.
LEMME SEE
squeeze
AHAHA... IT MAY NOT BE OBVIOUS, BUT MY BOOBS ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY BIG.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
YOU'RE ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS ME.
SH-SH-SHIMIZU-SAN!!
OH WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.

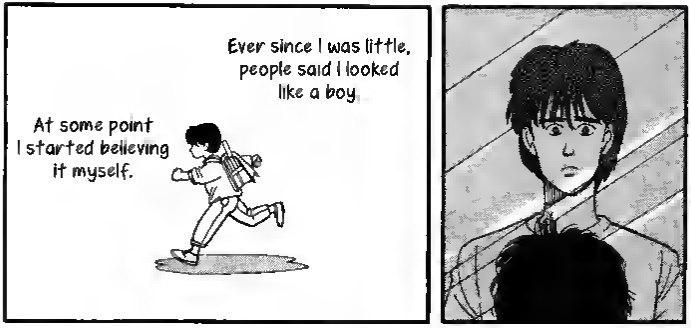
YOU WERE PRETTY BOYISH
I ALWAYS THOUGHT
HUH?
OH, WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY QUITE FEMININE.
NOTHING...

?
I MIGHT ...
I MIGHT QUIT THE DRAMA CLUB.
MIGHT... THAT'S ALL.
WHAT!?

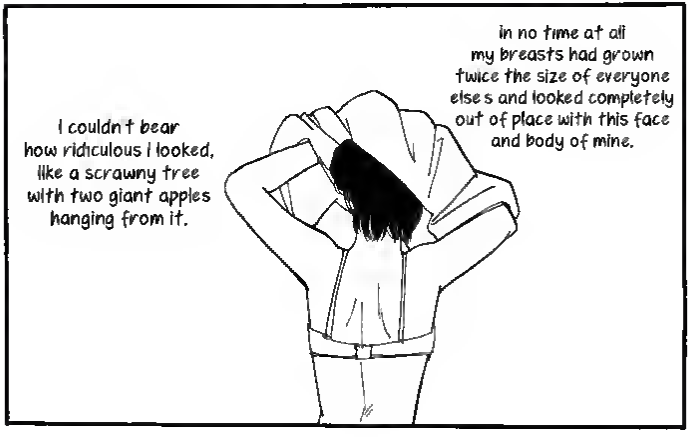
IF YOU QUIT,
WHO'LL BE THE CLUB PRESIDENT!?
BUT...
YOU COULD DO IT.
WHAT? ME? NO WAY, I COULDN'T!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M PRETTY FLAKEY...
I MEAN, I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE LIKE YOU.
I COULD NEVER KEEP EVERYONE IN LINE...

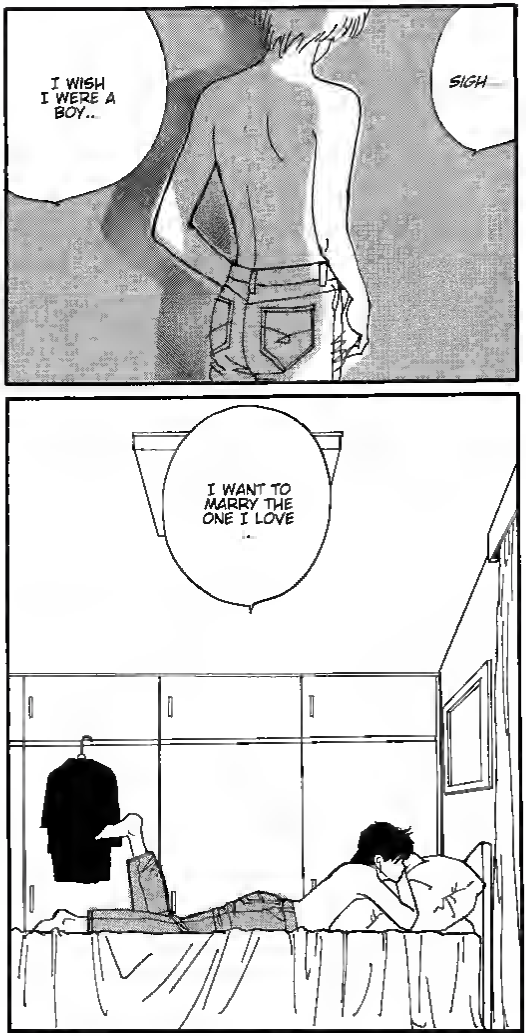
I..
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE
IF IT LOOKS THAT WAY, IT'S JUST APPEARANCES
I'M JUST NOT.
I'M REALLY NOT.
SHUT
GOODBYE

But appearances are important.
"I'm really not," she said in a kind of sing-song voice.
I mean, I fell for a guy who looks like a teen idol.
...



But God is cruel.


In no time at all my breasts had grown twice the size of everyone else's and looked completely out of place with this face and body of mine.
I couldn't bear how ridiculous I looked, like a scrawny tree with two giant apples hanging from it.

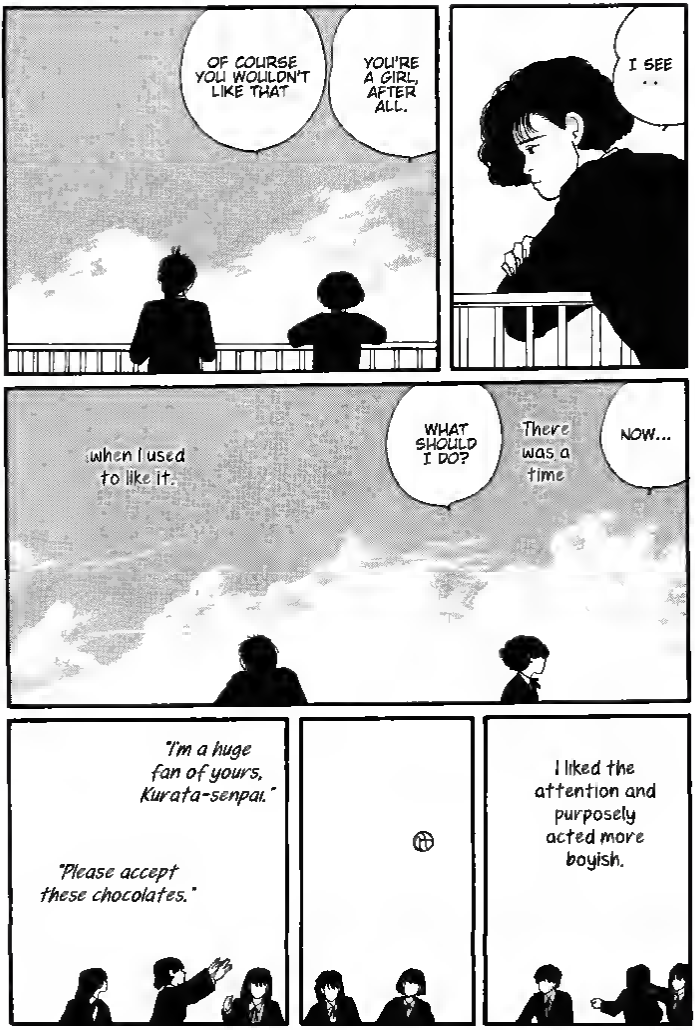

I WISH I WERE A BOY..
SIGH
I WANT TO MARRY THE ONE I LOVE ..
MORNING!
MORNING.

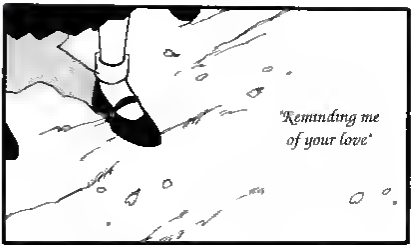
So she wasn't joking
SHIMIZU-SAN TOLD THE TEACHER SHE WANTS TO QUIT THE DRAMA CLUB.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
NO WAY!
I BET THE TEACHERS SAID SOMETHING TO HER ABOUT HER PERM AND THAT'S WHY.
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT, THOUGH.
THEN WHO'LL BE PRESIDENT?
SHE'S IN THE UPCOMING PLAY, TOO.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! NOT AFTER YOU'VE PUT ALL THIS TIME INTO IT!!
HEY, ARE YOU REALLY QUITTING!?
SHI-MIZU-SAN.

COME WITH ME!
HEY, I'M SERIOUS!
YOU'VE FINALLY STOPPED BEING SO POLITE WITH ME.
MY HAIR.
YOU KNOW...
DID THEY SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?
BUT THE TEACHERS...
WELL, I WOULDN'T MIND STAYING ON.
ARE THEY STUPID?
THESE DAYS HAVING A PERM'S NO BIG DEAL!
WHAT? THAT'S NONSENSE.
AS CLUB PRESIDENT BLAH BLAH BLAH...

I COULDN'T DO IT...
HUH..? I..
I REALLY DO THINK YOU'D MAKE A GOOD PRESIDENT, THOUGH.
IT'D JUST BE TOO MUCH OF A CLICHE
NO...THAT'S NOT IT..
TOO MUCH TROUBLE?
AND THEN ALL THE YOUNGER GIRLS GO CRAZY OVER ME...
AND THERE'S NOT THAT MANY GIRLS WHO CAN PLAY GUY ROLES.
BUT IT'S A GIRLS SCHOOL, YOU KNOW?
I'M NOT SAYING THIS TO BRAG.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO GO ON TO DO TAKARAZUKA OR ANYTHING...

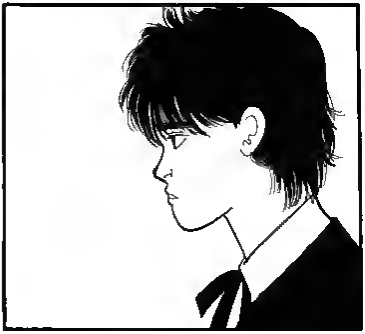
Note: Takarazuka Revue is an all-female musical theater troupe.

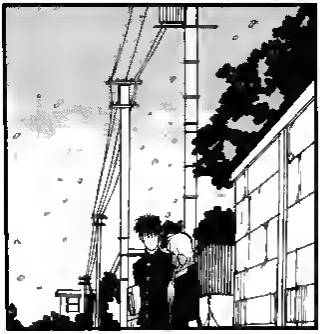

OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE THAT
YOU'RE A GIRL, AFTER ALL.
I SEE . .
when I used to like it.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
There was a time
NOW...
"I'm a huge fan of yours, Kurata-senpai."
"Please accept these chocolates."
I liked the attention and purposely acted more boyish.



"Love".

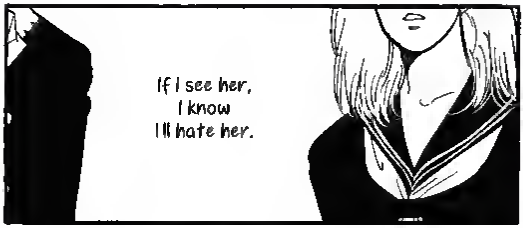
Such a vague word, offered to men and women alike.



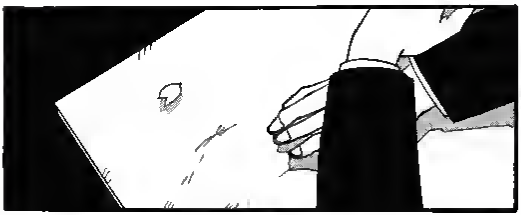


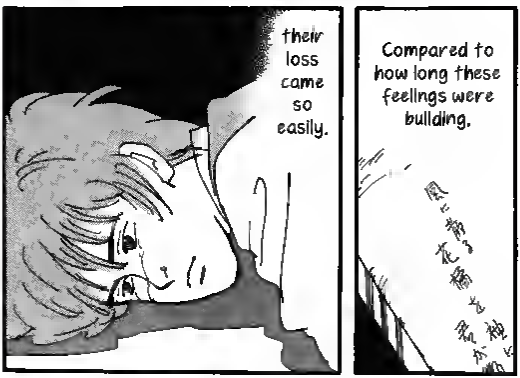
HUH?
LET'S CROSS THE STREET.
OH, THAT GIRL...
COME ON, LET'S JUST CROSS THE STREET.
God is indeed cruel.
OH, THAT'S..
JEEZ, DON'T STARE.
THAT GIRL...
OH...
Please don't notice me.
Please just keep walking.
SHE MIGHT EVEN BE HIS SISTER OR SOMETHING!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M SURE SHE'S JUST A FRIEND.
SHH!

STOP IT!!
I'M GONNA GO TAKE A LOOK AT HER FACE!
I don't want to see what she looks like.
Just seeing her from behind is more than enough.
UH ..
I don't want to see her face.
SORRY.
I don't want to see. I don't want to see.
IT'S NOTHING. SORRY!



She's probably the sort of delicate girl who would suit a boy like him.





HM?
OH, WHAT?
SORRY, I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE
HEY, KURATA-SAN..
OH GOOD, YOU DIDN'T LEAVE YET
..HEY, WOULD YOU COME UP ON THE ROOF WITH ME FOR A BIT?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING GOOD
SOME-THING GOOD?
WHAT IS IT?
A SURPRISE
BRING YOUR COSTUME.
HEY, WHAT'VE YOU GOT?
HERE
WOW, THAT'S CUTE!

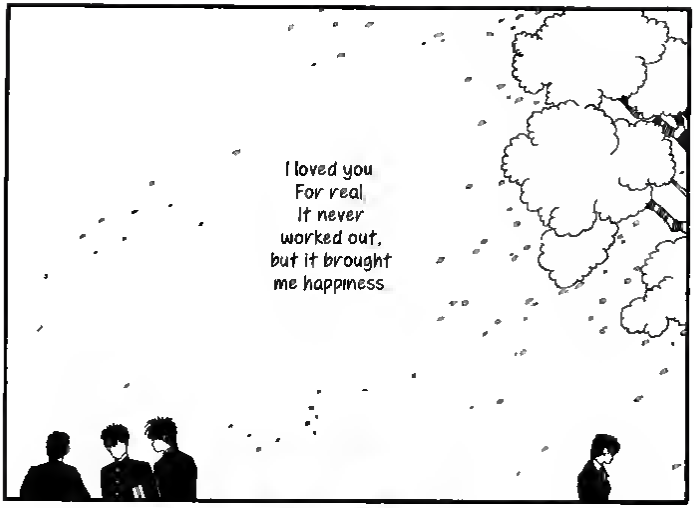
...
GIVE IT HERE.
I'LL SEW IT ON. I BROUGHT A NEEDLE AND THREAD.
THIS WILL BOTH ACT AS AN ACCENT AND HELP HIDE YOUR CHEST.
MY CHEST'S GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT TROUBLE SINCE I WAS LITTLE
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY BIG, TOO.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A BAD THING.
I WAS TOLD I WAS "GROWING UP TOO FAST". AND STRANGE MEN WOULD TRY TO FEEL ME UP

I ALWAYS HUNCH MY SHOULDERS WHEN I WALK.
I'M
TALL ON TOP OF THAT.
SO I REALLY STAND OUT WHEN I'M WITH EVERYONE ELSE...
I'VE
ALWAYS ENVIED YOU, KURATA-SAN.
HUH?
I MEAN, YOU'RE SO BOYISH. I FIGURED THAT SORT OF THING WOULD BE TOTALLY FOREIGN TO YOU.

I WISH
I...
I'D BEEN BORN A LITTLE MORE FEMININE...
LIKE ATSUKO... OR YOU.
THEY ALWAYS JUST SAY I'M "RESPONSIBLE".
I'VE NEVER ONCE BEEN CALLED FEMININE OR CUTE.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER ONCE WANTED TO BE CALLED THAT.
ME?

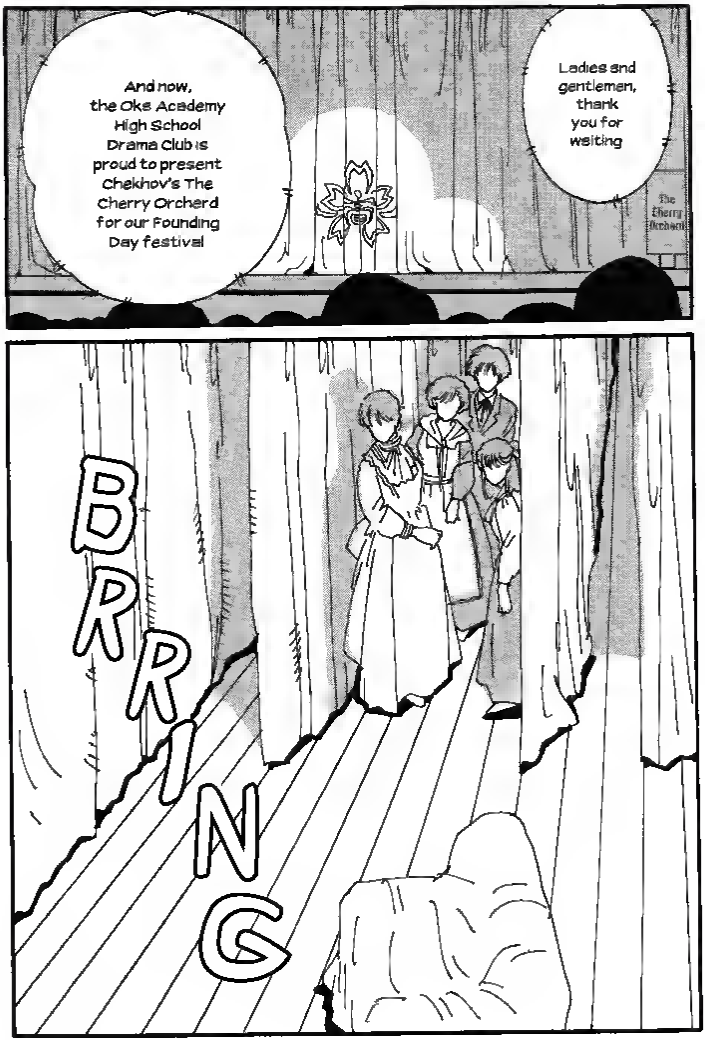
SEE? THIS'LL HELP HIDE...
THERE, DONE!
DOES IT HAVE TO BE A BOY?
WOULD SOMEONE LIKE ME THEN...?
IF I WERE SMALLER AND MORE FEMININE,
DO I NOT COUNT?
I LIKE YOU.

YEAH.
I LIKE YOU.
YEAH, YOU COUNT
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY SAY IT AGAIN
I LOVE YOU.
YEAH...
FOR REAL
I LIKE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.

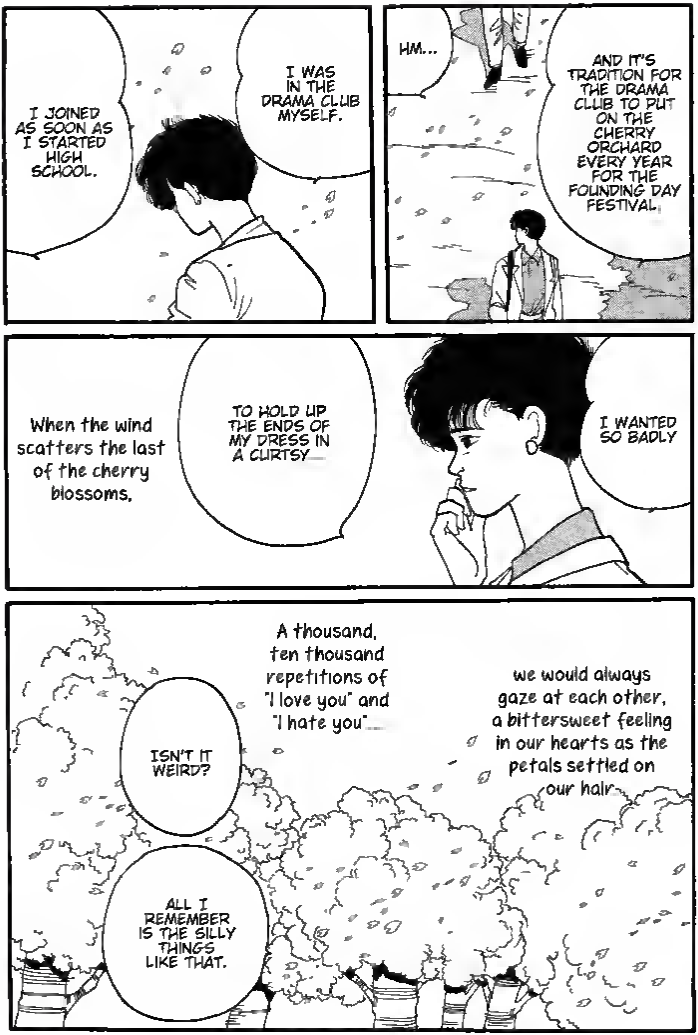

I loved you
For real
It never
worked out,
but it brought
me happiness

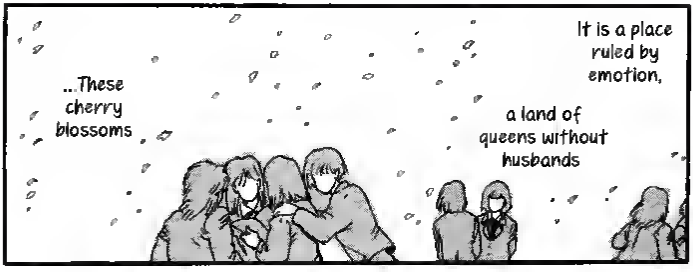
WISH I HAD A GOOD BODY.
YOU'RE SO TALL, YOU CAN REALLY PULL IT OFF.
WOW, YOU LOOK INCREDIBLE, CHIYO!
You've all got such nice dresses. How come I'm the only one who has to play a guy ?
GOOD LUCK, MA'AM.
GOOD LUCK, MOTHER.
GOOD LUCK, ANYA, DUNYASHA.

GET THAT CORD OUT OF THE WAY!
I WONDER IF SHIN-CHAN'S HERE.
HEY, YOU!
STAGE LEFT READY?
10 MINUTES TILL CURTAIN, EVERYONE! HURRY UP!
OK!
YEAH
IT'S ALMOST TIME
YEAH...
GOOD LUCK.
YIKES! WHAT AM I GONNA DO!?
WOW, THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE...

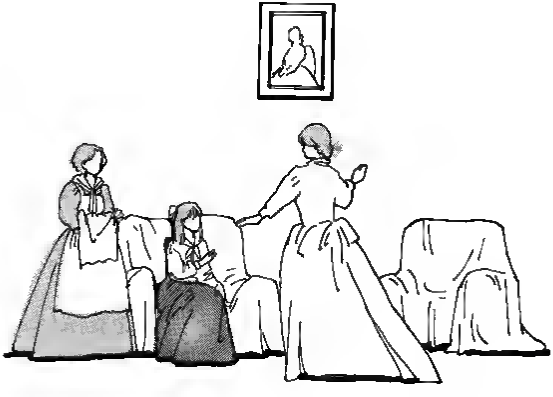

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for waiting
And now, the Oks Academy High School Drama Club is proud to present Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard for our Founding Day festival
The Cherry Orchard
BRRING

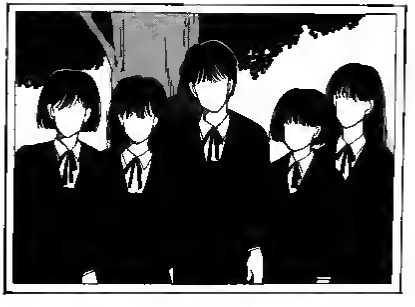
Brrrrrrrr
OH.
NO, THEY ALWAYS LOCK THE FRONT DOOR AS SOON AS THE PLAY STARTS.
CAN'T WE GET IN?
OH, I KNEW IT. I WAS OFF BY 30 MINUTES!
OH NO!
OH, ATSUKO'S GOING TO BE SO CROSS WITH ME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THESE CHERRY TREES
RIGHT?
THEY PLANT A NEW TREE WITH EACH GRADUATING CLASS.
I KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET IN THROUGH THE BACK
BUT JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
AFTER ALL, I SPENT 6 YEARS HERE.


I JOINED AS SOON AS I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.
I WAS IN THE DRAMA CLUB MYSELF.
HM...
AND IT'S TRADITION FOR THE DRAMA CLUB TO PUT ON THE CHERRY ORCHARD EVERY YEAR FOR THE FOUNDING DAY FESTIVAL.
When the wind scatters the last of the cherry blossoms,
TO HOLD UP THE ENDS OF MY DRESS IN A CURTSY...
I WANTED SO BADLY
A thousand, ten thousand repetitions of "I love you" and "I hate you"...
we would always gaze at each other, a bittersweet feeling in our hearts as the petals settled on our hair.
ISN'T IT WEIRD?
ALL I REMEMBER IS THE SILLY THINGS LIKE THAT.



are the crowns upon our heads.





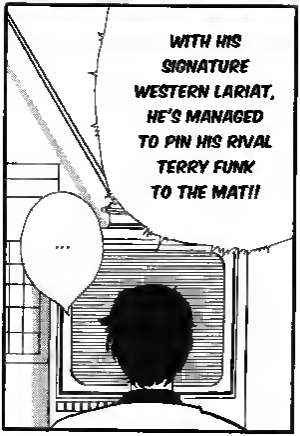
Schoolgirl
Princess

When I was in high school,
I always tended to fall for aggressive guys

Like sand spilling through my fingers,
I found the same aggressive guys annoying and wished they would learn to control themselves. They just didn't appeal to me at all anymore.
Once I was in my twenties,
RAWR
grr
grr
was a man who was practically the dictionary definition of "safe"
sparkle
in the end the only one left
Kadokawa Nobuo, 28. Middle school teacher at Dozono Girls Academy
He was three years ahead of me at university and we got married as soon as I graduated.
Three years later, our daughter was born
and my husband named her Karika

LISTEN TO THEM CHANT HIS NAME!!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
THE CROWD GOES WILD!!

LET'S DO IT.
twist
He looks like a different man.

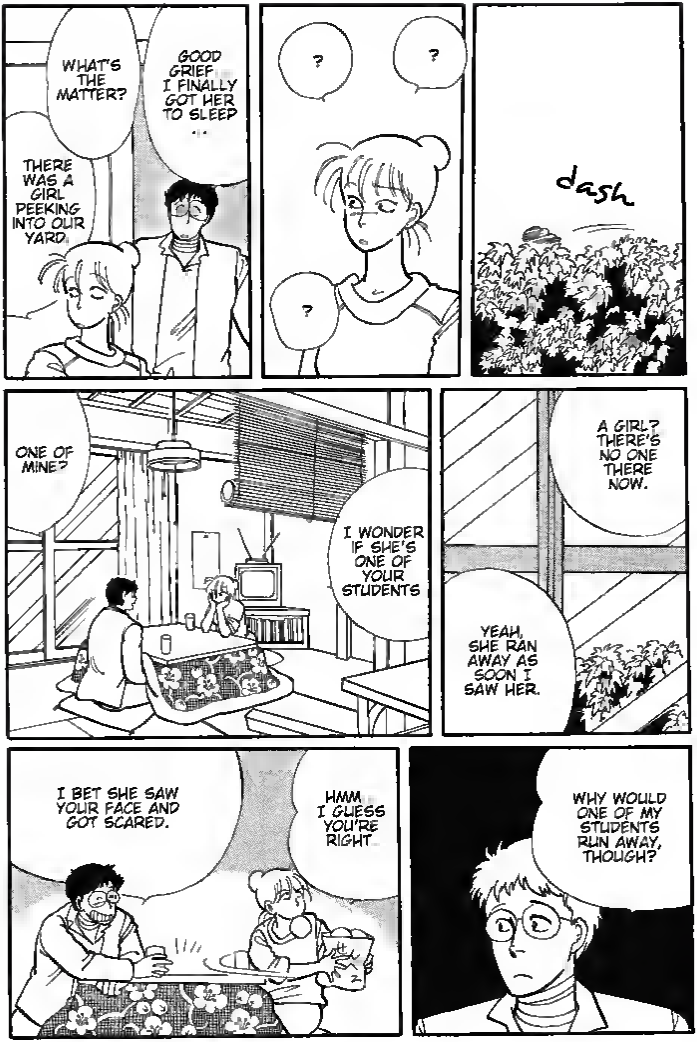

WITH HIS SIGNATURE WESTERN LARIAT, HE'S MANAGED TO PIN HIS RIVAL TERRY FUNK TO THE MAT!!
...

...

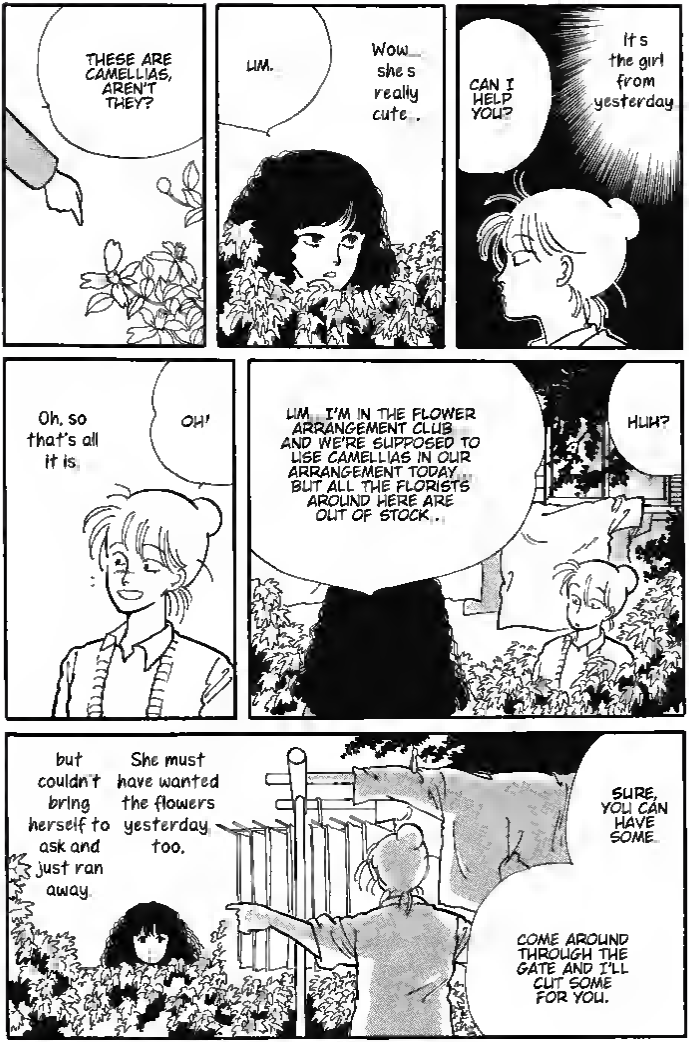
OW! OW! NONOKO, THAT HURTS!!
My husband's hobbies are playing at pro wrestling and watching baseball
How do you like my Elbow Stab!?
but he's becoming a total "Japanese dad" stereotype.
Take that! Western Lariat!!
WAH!
TOTALLY SERIOUS NOW
Hiya! I'm not done for yet!!
ROPE! ROPE!
It's not that there's anything wrong with that.
CRASH
THUMP
The neighbors are at it again.
THWACK
Oof!
I win

GOOD IDEA. I CAN'T EXACTLY ADMIT I HURT MY NECK PRETENDING TO BE A PRO WRESTLER..
I CALLED AND TOLD THEM YOU'D FALLEN OFF YOUR BIKE.
HE'LL NEED TO TAKE THE DAY OFF..
YES, SO I'M AFRAID
I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL AGAIN ONCE WE GET BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL.
GO PLAY WITH DADDY.
NO, NO, KARIKA. THAT'S DANGEROUS
GOOOOO
VVVVVV
TOO BAD.. GUESS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WATCH WRESTLING FOR A WHILE.
that I became a housewife right after graduation
All my friends think it's kind of weird
HERE, KARIKA, COME TO DADDY.. MOMMY'S VERY BUSY

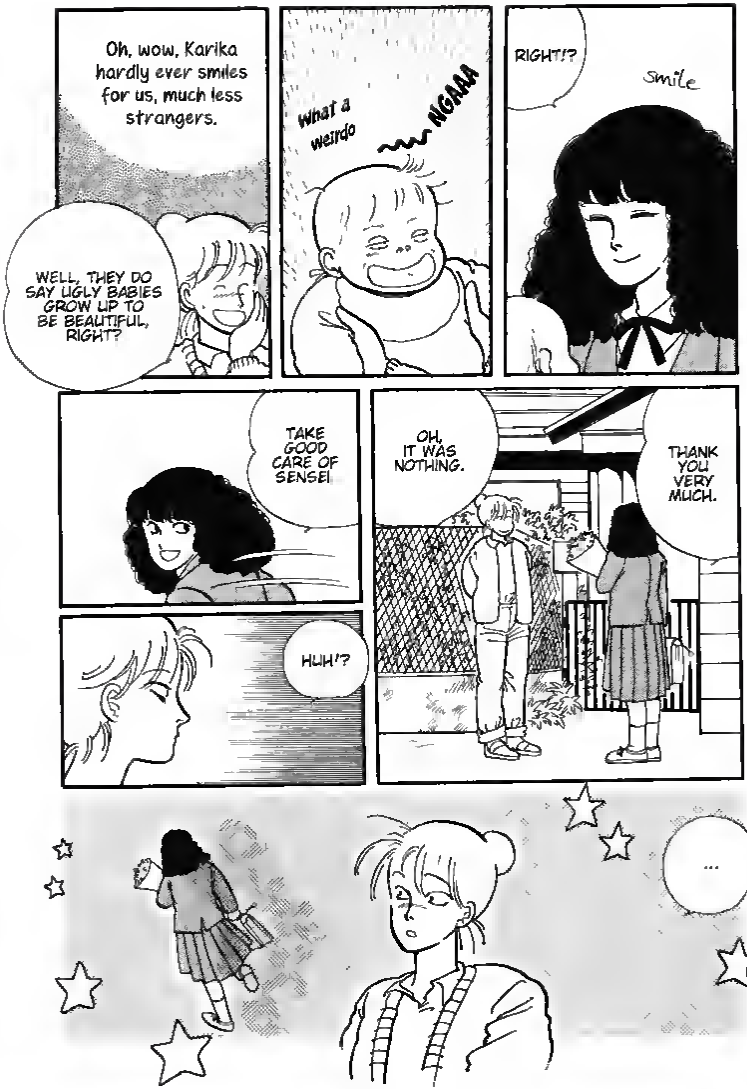
LET'S SEE... "AS ALWAYS, YOUR FINANCES CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH, YOU MAY BE IN FOR SOMETHING UNEXPECTED..." HUH?
crunch
Back then I didn't feel any resistance to the idea of getting married and being a housewife
But I didn't really give it too much thought
Rice crackers
NOW, WHAT'S MY FORTUNE FOR THIS MONTH...?
rustle
WHAT COULD IT BE..? WILL KADOKAWA-KUN GET A RAISE...? NOT LIKELY..
crunch


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
GOOD GRIEF I FINALLY GOT HER TO SLEEP...
THERE WAS A GIRL PEEKING INTO OUR YARD.
?
?
?
dash
ONE OF MINE?
I WONDER IF SHE'S ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS
A GIRL? THERE'S NO ONE THERE NOW.
YEAH, SHE RAN AWAY AS SOON I SAW HER.
I BET SHE SAW YOUR FACE AND GOT SCARED.
HMM I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
WHY WOULD ONE OF MY STUDENTS RUN AWAY, THOUGH?

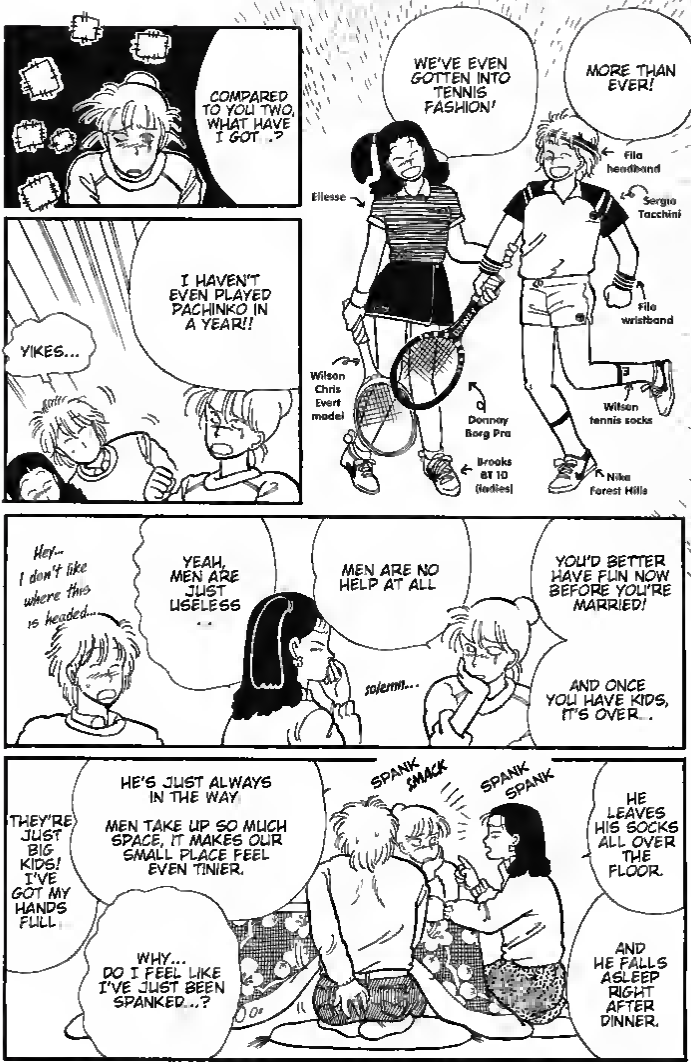
AND STOP AT THE DOCTOR'S ON YOUR WAY HOME
NOW DON'T MOVE YOUR NECK TOO MUCH
I WILL.
I KNOW, I KNOW
HERE'S YOUR LUNCH
I've got one big kid and one little kid..
Marriage is just like child-rearing..
Whew!
rustle

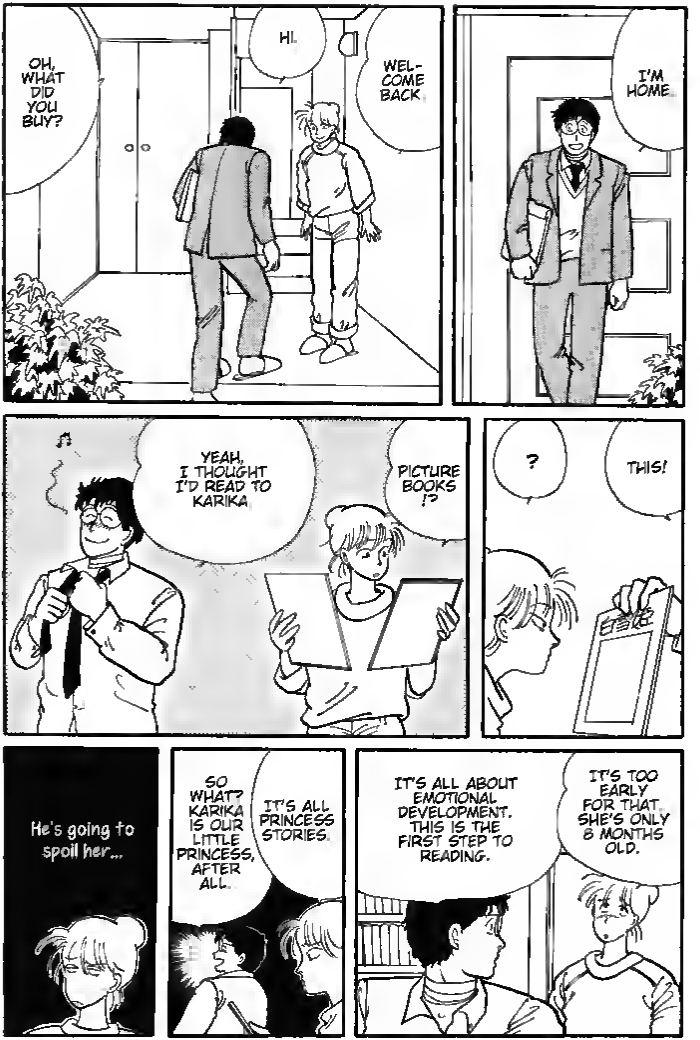

THESE ARE CAMELLIAS, AREN'T THEY?
UM.
Wow... she's really cute.
It's the girl from yesterday
CAN I HELP YOU?
OH!
Oh, so that's all it is.
UM... I'M IN THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLUB AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO USE CAMELLIAS IN OUR ARRANGEMENT TODAY, BUT ALL THE FLORISTS AROUND HERE ARE OUT OF STOCK...
HUH?
SURE, YOU CAN HAVE SOME.
COME AROUND THROUGH THE GATE AND I'LL CUT SOME FOR YOU.
She must have wanted the flowers yesterday too.
but couldn't bring herself to ask and just ran away.

YES.
ARE YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
YES.
WHAT YEAR?
3RD YEAR.
OH, SO YOU'LL HAVE EXAMS SOON.
She sure is cute. I hope Karika grows up to be this cute.
HUH? OH, SURE! OF COURSE.
CAN I SEE IT? I LOVE BABIES.
smile
HUH? YEAH.
DO YOU HAVE A BABY?
WAAH WAAH
OH, THAT'S NOT TRUE SHE'S CUTE.
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN ALL OUR WORST FEATURES NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, I BET?
Hahaha...
FUG

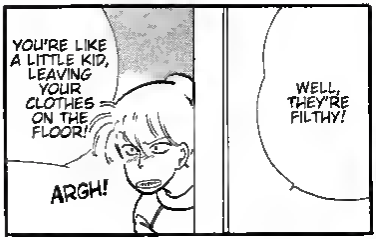

Oh, wow, Karika hardly ever smiles for us, much less strangers.
WELL, THEY DO SAY UGLY BABIES GROW UP TO BE BEAUTIFUL, RIGHT?
what a weirdo
NIGAAA
RIGHT!?
Smile
TAKE GOOD CARE OF SENSEI
HUH!?
OH, IT WAS NOTHING.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...

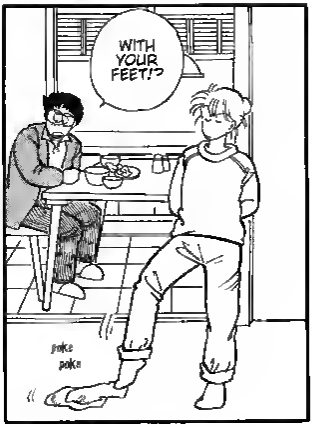
THAT DOES SOUND SUSPICIOUS, THOUGH
SHE'S SUCH A LITTLE WEIRDO. YOU SHOULD HAVE NAMED HER PATAKARIKA. SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTER FROM THE MANGA PATALLIRO.
WHO'S A GOOD GIRL?
COME ON, KARIKA-CHAN, GIVE US A SMILE
grump
YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL. AFTER ALL, MIDDLE SCHOOLERS THESE DAYS ARE PRETTY MATURE.
AND HE'S A MALE TEACHER AT AN ALL GIRLS SCHOOL...
NO WAY... I MEAN, SHE'S HIS STUDENT.
MAYBE HE HAS A SECRET LOLITA FETISH OR SOMETHING.
I ENVY YOU. ARE YOU TWO STILL INTO TENNIS?
YEP!!
IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN MARRIED
I WENT TO AN ALL GIRLS SCHOOL MYSELF AND THERE WAS A GIRL WHO MARRIED OUR YOUNG TEACHER AS SOON AS SHE GRADUATED.
...


COMPARED TO YOU TWO, WHAT HAVE I GOT..?
I HAVEN'T EVEN PLAYED PACHINKO IN A YEAR!!
YIKES...
WE'VE EVEN GOTTEN INTO TENNIS FASHION!
MORE THAN EVER!
Ellesse
Fila headband
Sergio Tacchini
Fila wristband
Wilson Chris Evert model
Donnay Borg Pro
Brooks BT 10 (ladies)
Wilson tennis socks
Nike Forest Hills
Hey... I don't like where this is headed...
YEAH, MEN ARE JUST USELESS..
MEN ARE NO HELP AT ALL
solemn...
YOU'D BETTER HAVE FUN NOW BEFORE YOU'RE MARRIED!
AND ONCE YOU HAVE KIDS, IT'S OVER..
THEY'RE JUST BIG KIDS! I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL!
HE'S JUST ALWAYS IN THE WAY!
MEN TAKE UP SO MUCH SPACE, IT MAKES OUR SMALL PLACE FEEL EVEN TINIER.
WHY... DO I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST BEEN SPANKED...?
SPANK
SMACK
SPANK
SPANK
HE LEAVES HIS SOCKS ALL OVER THE FLOOR.
AND HE FALLS ASLEEP RIGHT AFTER DINNER.

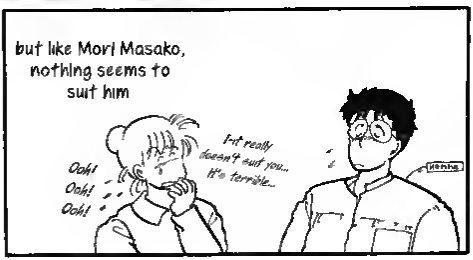

OH, WHAT DID YOU BUY?
HI.
WELCOME BACK.
I'M HOME.
YEAH, I THOUGHT I'D READ TO KARIKA.
PICTURE BOOKS!?
?
THIS!
He's going to spoil her...
SO WHAT? KARIKA IS OUR LITTLE PRINCESS, AFTER ALL.
IT'S ALL PRINCESS STORIES.
IT'S ALL ABOUT EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO READING.
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT. SHE'S ONLY 8 MONTHS OLD.

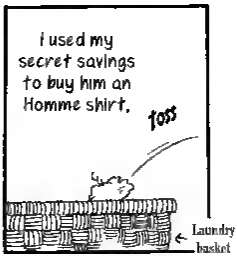
HE WAS REALLY DOWN. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING TO AKO?
slurp
APPARENTLY AKO TOLD HIM SHE NEEDS MORE TIME TO THINK ABOUT MARRIAGE.
I SAW IWANAMI TONIGHT.
Pickles
HEY! I BET YOU BLEW EVERYTHING OUT OF PROPORTION, DIDN'T YOU?
I JUST TOLD HER THE TRUTH.
crunch crunch
WHO, ME? I DIDN'T SAY A THING.
annoyed
His socks
IT'S NOT OUT OF PROPOR-TION


YOU'RE LIKE A LITTLE KID, LEAVING YOUR CLOTHES ON THE FLOOR!
ARGH!
WELL, THEY'RE FILTHY!


WITH YOUR FEET!?
poke poke

...
Jeez...


but like Mori Masako, nothing seems to suit him
Ooh! Ooh! Ooh!
I-it really doesn't suit you... It's terrible...
Hmmm


I used my secret savings to buy him an Homme shirt.
toss
Laundry basket

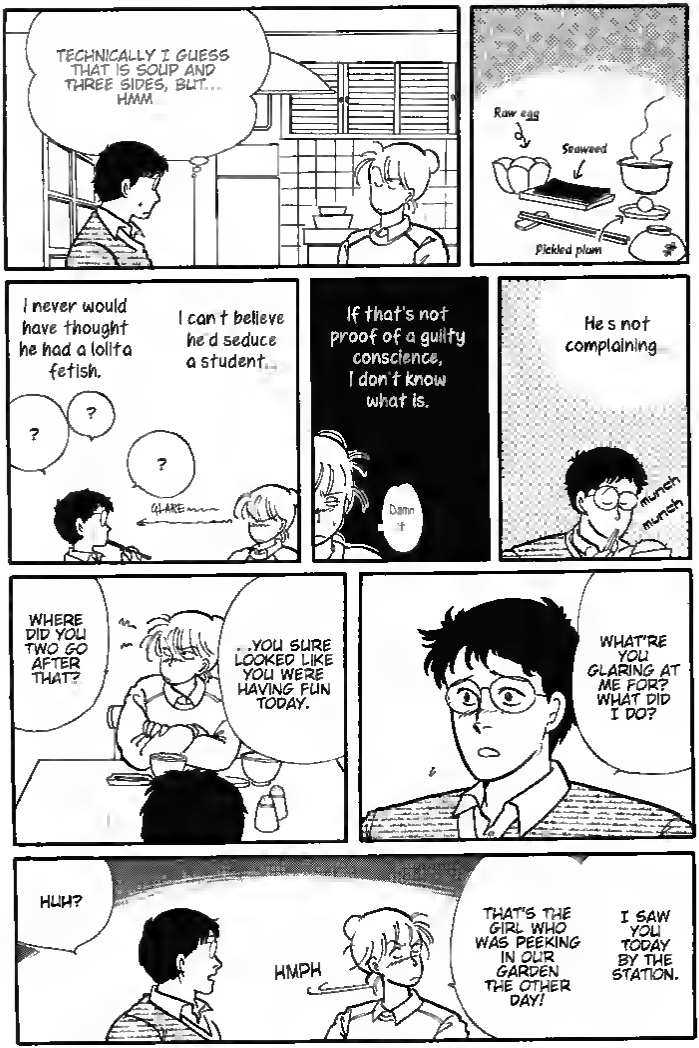
...AND EVERYONE IN THE LAND CELEBRATED THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS...

with Seiyu slacks Navy blue gabardine no less! I could cry!
Who, me?
You know how much work it took getting this gal present-table...?
I hear you...!!
I don't want a man who looks best in a Lacoste polo...
It's driving me mad!! Ooh! Ooh! I can't take it anymore!
Hahaha...
But I gave up when he wore Ito-Yokado briefs

Why did I ever marry him anyway...?

WHAT SHOULD I MAKE FOR DINNER TONIGHT...?
I've got a great sale for you today, ladies!
Fish
Welcome! Welcome!
Shopping Bag
=3=3
?!
I WISH HE'D THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH TROUBLE IT IS TO COME UP WITH A MENU EVERY NIGHT
Kadokawa-kun doesn't drink, but he sure complains if we don't have enough side dishes...
I like at least 3 sides, not just soup and one veggie
WHAT!?

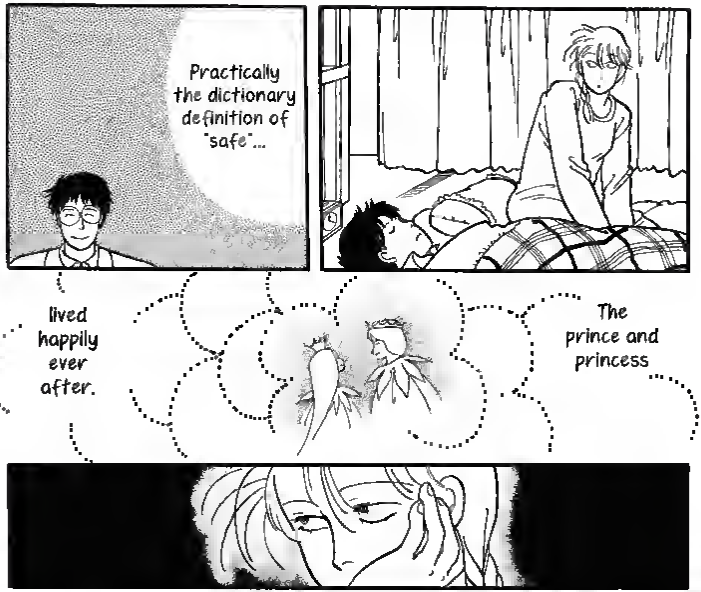
That girl.
I, I'm his wife, why am I the one hiding!?
gasp
Huh? They're gone
Oh no, I lost them
Does that dweeby, stinky, clutzy husband of mine really have the balls to seduce a student?
It can't be...
SCANDAL!
Student seduced by teacher!


TECHNICALLY I GUESS THAT IS SOUP AND THREE SIDES, BUT... HMM
Raw egg
Seaweed
Pickled plum
I never would have thought he had a lolita fetish.
I can't believe he'd seduce a student...
?
?
?
GLARE
If that's not proof of a guilty conscience, I don't know what is.
Damn
He's not complaining
munch munch
WHERE DID YOU TWO GO AFTER THAT?
...YOU SURE LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING FUN TODAY.
WHAT'RE YOU GLARING AT ME FOR? WHAT DID I DO?
HUH?
HMPH
THAT'S THE GIRL WHO WAS PEEKING IN OUR GARDEN THE OTHER DAY!
I SAW YOU TODAY BY THE STATION.

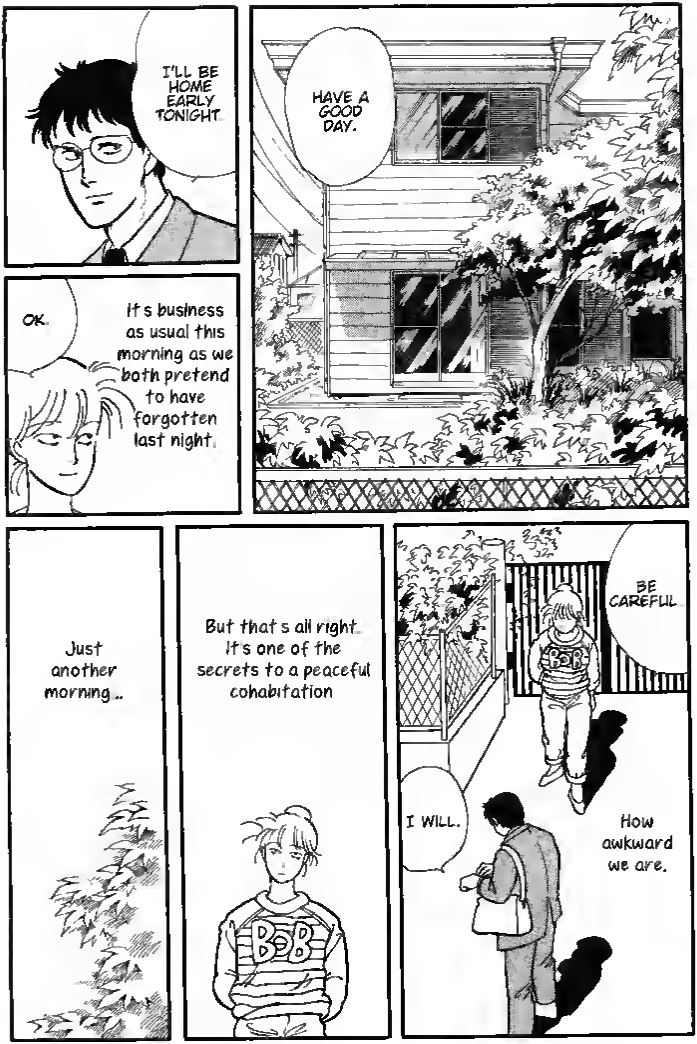
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE? THAT'S PRETTY CONVENIENT
IT MUST BE NICE TO BE SO POPULAR!
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER PEEKING IN OUR GARDEN... THAT'S WEIRD..
...IT'S TRUE I HELPED A GIRL TO THE TRAIN STATION.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT IMPRESSION, BUT I WOULD NEVER LAY A HAND ON A STUDENT!
NONOKO!
WHAT?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
CLATTER
...
BESIDES, THAT GIRL DOESN'T EVEN GO TO MY SCHOOL! I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU COULD AT LEAST RECOGNIZE OUR UNIFORMS, BUT I GUESS NOT.

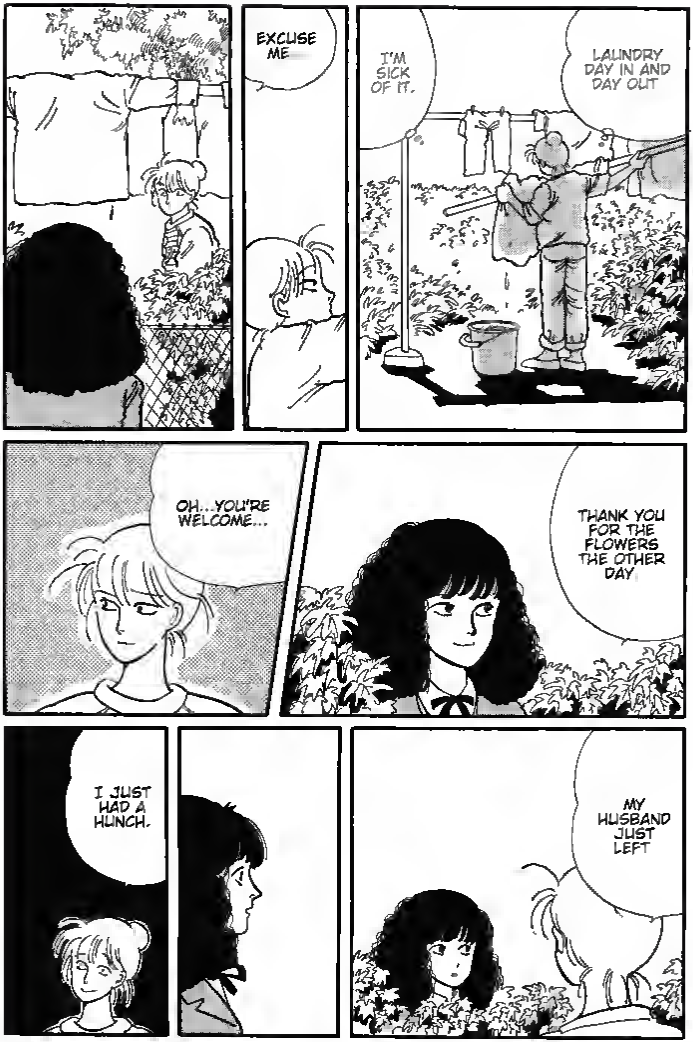
It's his fault for doing something that could be misconstrued.
Hmph! What's he so mad about!?
tromp tromp tromp
tromp tromp tromp
...
Who's there?
Oh!
Wh-what are you guys all doing here anyway? Eeeek!
WH-WHAT? OUR BREAKUPS WERE ALL MUTUAL, DON'T BLAME ME!
If it isn't H-kun, my high school boyfriend Yikes, and T-kun, too! Oh, and K-kun from college. And N-san!

ZZZZ
GASP
Why on earth...?
A dream...?
ZZZZ
mumble
GULP
MM, MMMM
roll
it's not like I was cheating or anything
Jeez... why am I so on edge?

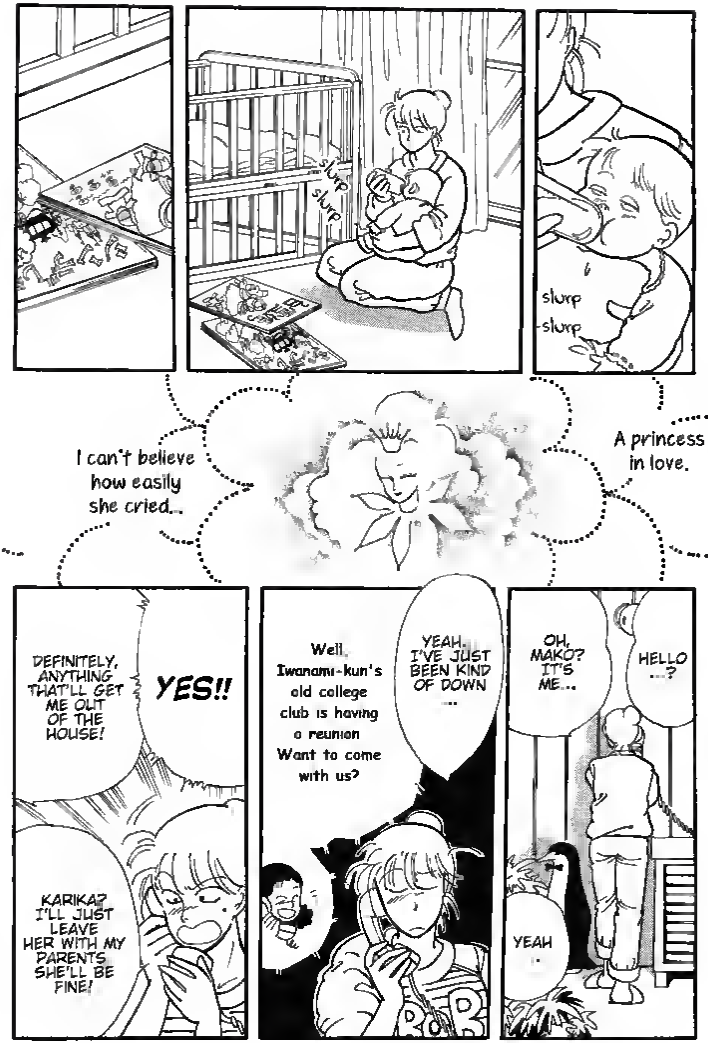


But it's not easy being the prince or the princess.

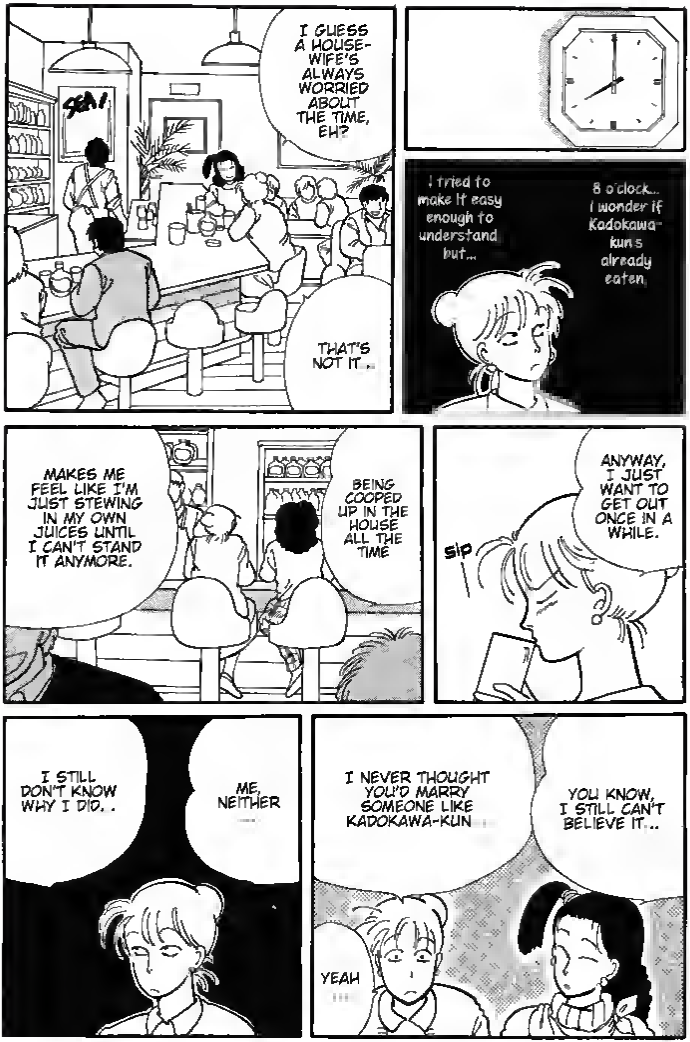

I'LL BE HOME EARLY TONIGHT.
HAVE A GOOD DAY.
OK.
It's business as usual this morning as we both pretend to have forgotten last night.
Just another morning...
But that's all right. It's one of the secrets to a peaceful cohabitation
BE CAREFUL.
I WILL.
How awkward we are.

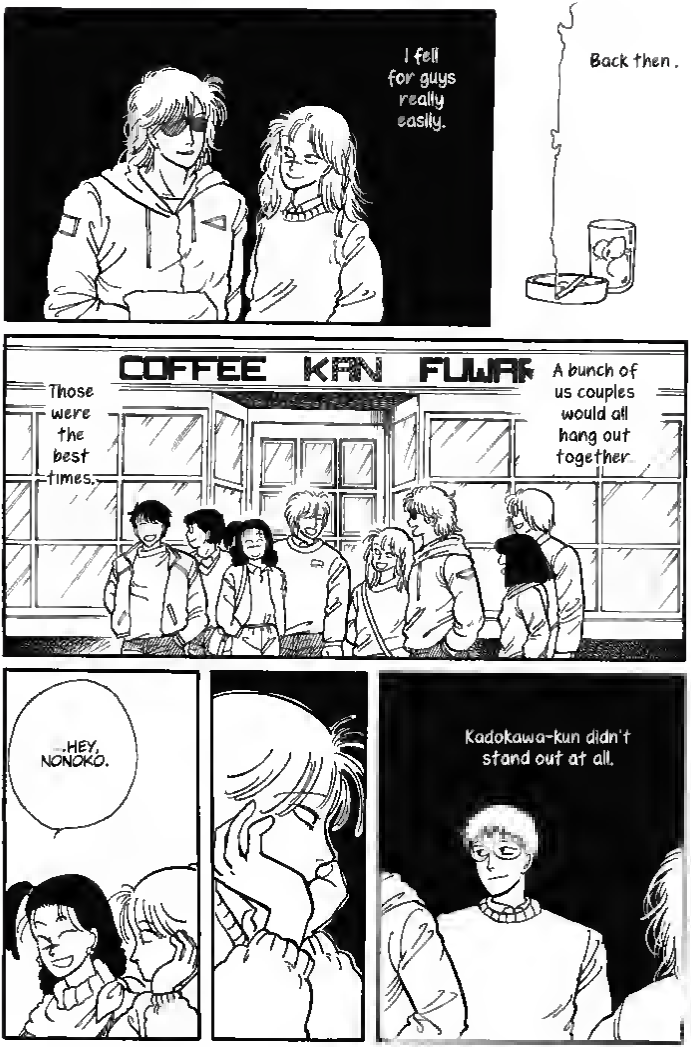

EXCUSE ME...
I'M SICK OF IT.
LAUNDRY DAY IN AND DAY OUT
OH...YOU'RE WELCOME...
THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS THE OTHER DAY.
I JUST HAD A HUNCH.
MY HUSBAND JUST LEFT

BUT I DO WONDER WHAT A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU SEES IN AN OAF LIKE MY HUSBAND...
I'M NOT ANGRY OR ANYTHING, THOUGH.
...
I...
OH! WAIT...
bow
I'M SORRY
Oh, she's crying!
Crap...

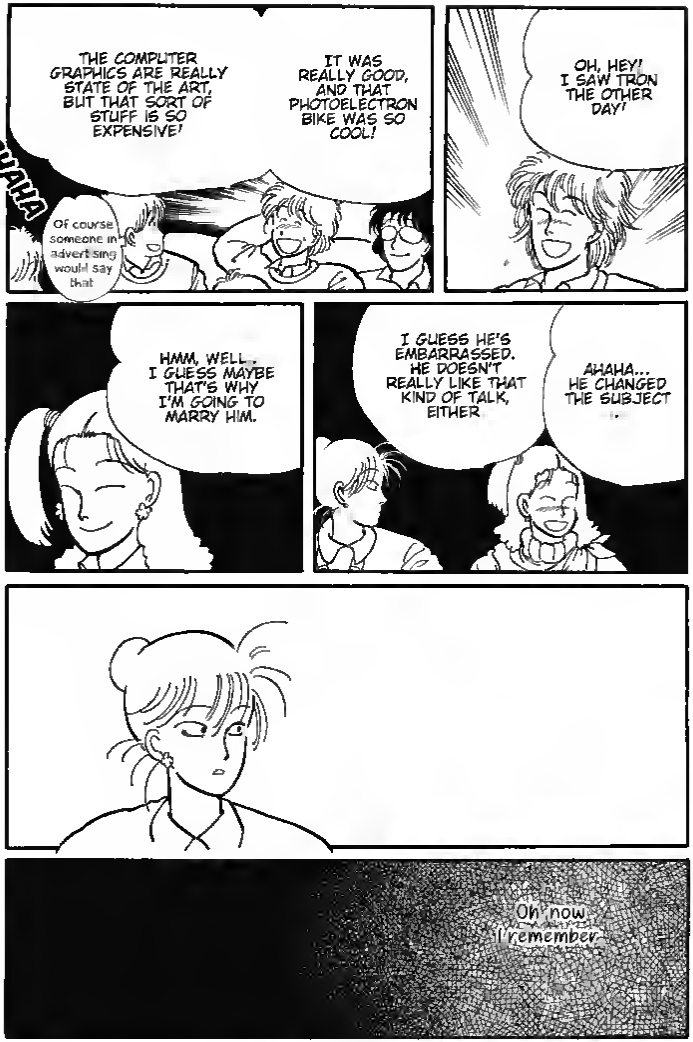

slurp slurp
slurp slurp
I can't believe how easily she cried...
A princess in love.
HELLO ...?
OH, MAKO? IT'S ME...
YEAH.
YEAH. I'VE JUST BEEN KIND OF DOWN ...
Well, Iwanami-kun's old college club is having a reunion Want to come with us?
YES!!
DEFINITELY, ANYTHING THAT'LL GET ME OUT OF THE HOUSE!
KARIKA? I'LL JUST LEAVE HER WITH MY PARENTS SHE'LL BE FINE!

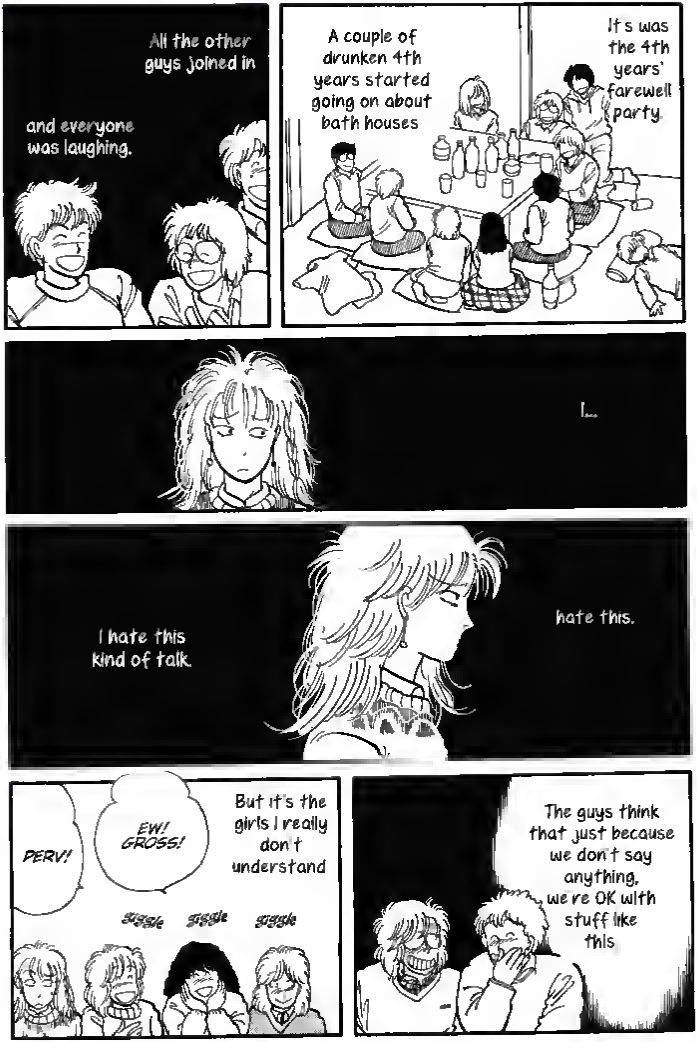
Pretty Baby
OF COURSE MY SON WILL GROW UP TO BE A GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN!
Handsome Husband
FIRST I'LL LAND A GOOD LOOKING HUSBAND!
Beautiful Boy
Sparkle
PRETTY HIGH HOPES YOU'VE GOT THERE.
OH YEAH?
THEN I'LL HAVE A GOOD LOOKING SON!
BUT! I WILL NEVER RAISE A SELFISH SON WHO MAKES GIRLS CRY!
Grrrrr
WHAT? I THINK ANY MOTHER WOULD BE PROUD FOR HER SON TO BE POPULAR.
I'LL SAY A MANTRA. "ACT COOL AND ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS WILL FLOCK TO YOU!"!
WHAT KIND OF MOTHER ARE YOU?
I'M GLAD I'M NOT YOUR SON
WHEN MY SON STARTS HIGH SCHOOL, I'LL QUIETLY GIVE HIM A CONDOM WRAPPED IN HIS HANDKERCHIEF.. THAT'S THE KIND OF MOM I WANT TO BE. .
Though I've had a few setbacks at step one...
Here... you're a man now


I GUESS A HOUSE-WIFE'S ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THE TIME, EH?
SIGH
THAT'S NOT IT...
I tried to make it easy enough to understand, but...
8 o'clock... I wonder if Kadokawa-kun's already eaten.
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M JUST STEWING IN MY OWN JUICES UNTIL I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.
BEING COOPED UP IN THE HOUSE ALL THE TIME
ANYWAY, I JUST WANT TO GET OUT ONCE IN A WHILE.
SIP
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY I DID..
ME, NEITHER
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D MARRY SOMEONE LIKE KADOKAWA-KUN
YOU KNOW, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
YEAH

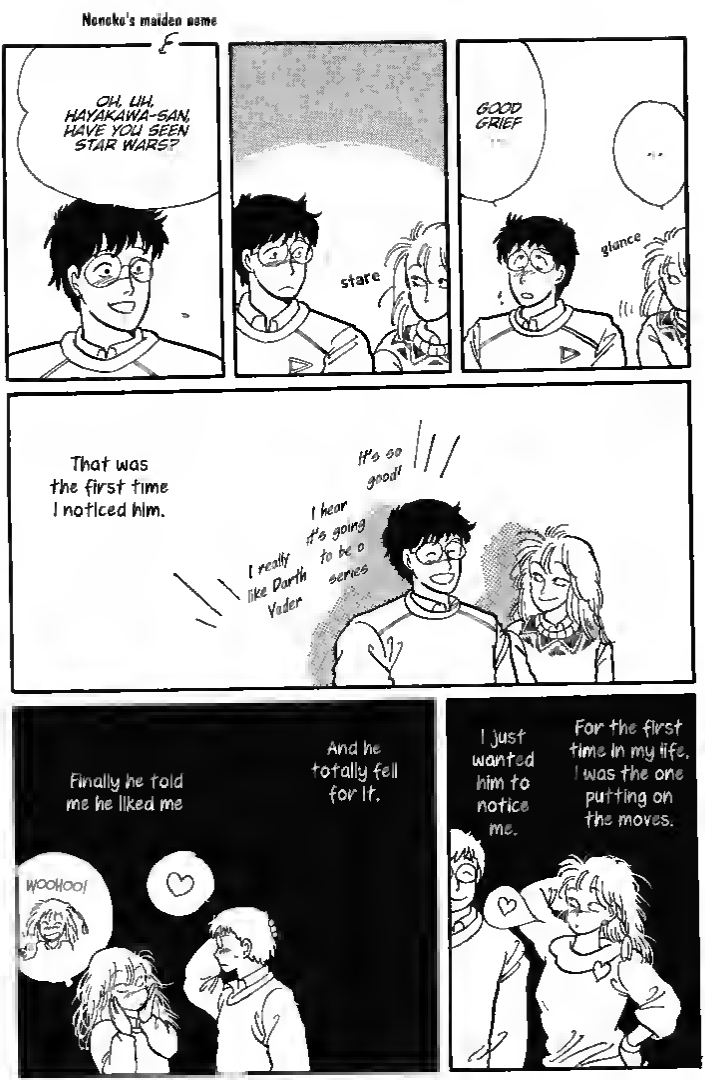

I fell for guys really easily.
Back then.
COFFEE KAN FUWA
Those were the best times.
A bunch of us couples would all hang out together
..HEY, NONOKO.
Kadokawa-kun didn't stand out at all.

THAT'S THE WORST COMBINATION! WE HAVE THE WORST COMPATIBILITY FOR MARRIAGE!!
HE'S A CAPRICORN AND I'M A LEO, RIGHT?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE IN THE SAME MOUN-TAINEERING CLUB?
IWANAMI-KUN KIND OF REMINDS ME OF KADOKAWA-SAN IN SOME WAYS.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT, THOUGH
I MEAN, HE'S THE TYPE WHO WON'T CROSS A RIVER EVEN ON A STONE BRIDGE, WHEREAS I'LL JUST SWIM ACROSS EVEN IF THERE'S NO BRIDGE AT ALL. SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I EVER THOUGHT TO MARRY HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE!
HMM... I CAN SEE WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM..
EVERY ASTROLOGY BOOK I'VE LOOKED AT SAYS SO. THEY ALL SAY A CAPRICORN MAN IS TOO DULL TO KEEP THE INTEREST OF A FUN-LOVING LEO WOMAN...
I hate that sort of talk
EW, WHY DO GUYS GO TO BATH HOUSES ANYWAY?
AND SHE WAS REALLY UGLY, TOO!
AHAHA HAHA!
OH, YOU!
chatter


THE COMPUTER GRAPHICS ARE REALLY STATE OF THE ART, BUT THAT SORT OF STUFF IS SO EXPENSIVE!
IT WAS REALLY GOOD, AND THAT PHOTOELECTRON BIKE WAS SO COOL!
HAHAHA
Of course someone in advertising would say that
OH, HEY! I SAW TRON THE OTHER DAY!
HMM, WELL... I GUESS MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM.
I GUESS HE'S EMBARRASSED. HE DOESN'T REALLY LIKE THAT KIND OF TALK, EITHER
AHAHA... HE CHANGED THE SUBJECT
Oh now I remember


All the other guys joined in
and everyone was laughing.
A couple of drunken 4th years started going on about bath houses
It's was the 4th years' farewell party
I...
I hate this kind of talk.
hate this.
PERV!
EW! GROSS!
But it's the girls I really don't understand
giggle
giggle
giggle
The guys think that just because we don't say anything, we're OK with stuff like this

DO THEY THINK THEY'RE NOT LIKE THOSE OTHER GIRLS?
DO THEY THINK THAT MAKES THEM COOL?
HOW CAN THEY SMILE AND LAUGH LIKE THAT WHEN THOSE GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT PAYING FOR SEX?
!
HEY, COME ON, THERE ARE LADIES PRESENT.
OR MAYBE I'M JUST WEIRDLY PRUDISH...
IDIOT!
OH YEAH? MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S EMBARRASSED, KADOKAWA-SAN!
GIVE IT A REST. WHY DON'T YOU? EVERYONE'S EMBARRASSED.
KADO-KAWA-KUN
How rude!
I haven't done anything to be embarrassed about!


Nanoka's maiden name
OH, UH, HAYAKAWA-SAN, HAVE YOU SEEN STAR WARS?
stare
GOOD GRIEF
glance
That was the first time I noticed him.
It's so good!
I hear it's going to be a series
I really like Darth Vader
Finally he told me he liked me
And he totally fell for it.
WOOHOO!
I just wanted him to notice me.
For the first time in my life, I was the one putting on the moves.

I BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA.
I finally remembered
YIKES, IT'S RAINING!
I'd forgotten for so long
There's no room for three
I'm fine
Come on, just get in here with us

QUIEEEEET
I WONDER IF HE'S SLEEPING
pad pad pad pad
IT'S LATE...
SHUFFLE
Sorry I'm late...
Hahaha... h-hi...
SCARY
WHOA
LY...
HE'S AWAKE!
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HUH?
HUNGRY?
UH.. OH. WELL.. A LITTLE.

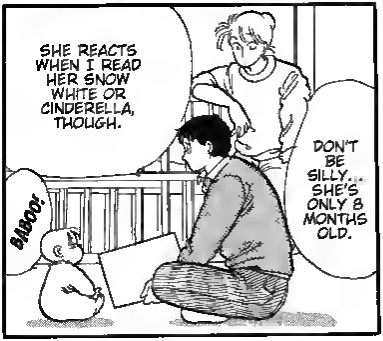
YIKES, THE SINK IS COVERED IN RICE.
Hehaha...
I'LL MAKE TEA.
HUGE
mutter
THAT'S ALL I KNOW HOW TO MAKE.
SO SALTY AND JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SALMON!
MMM! DELICIOUS!! THESE ARE TRULY A WORK OF ART!
Seaweed
HM? OK.
YOU HAVE HALF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME.

HUH?
UH.. OK UM..
I LOVE YOU.
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I remembered what was important.
Um... Um..
What are you blushing for? We're married...
We even had a kid together
You're so ridiculous...
I just have to remember
If I ever forget again,

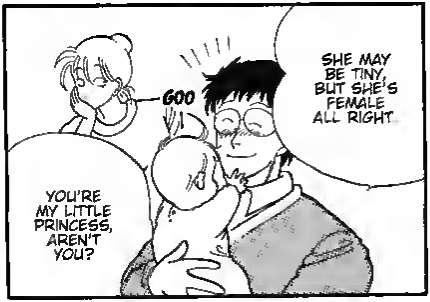
IT'S KARIKA! I THINK SHE UNDERSTANDS WHAT I'M SAYING!
WHAT IS IT?

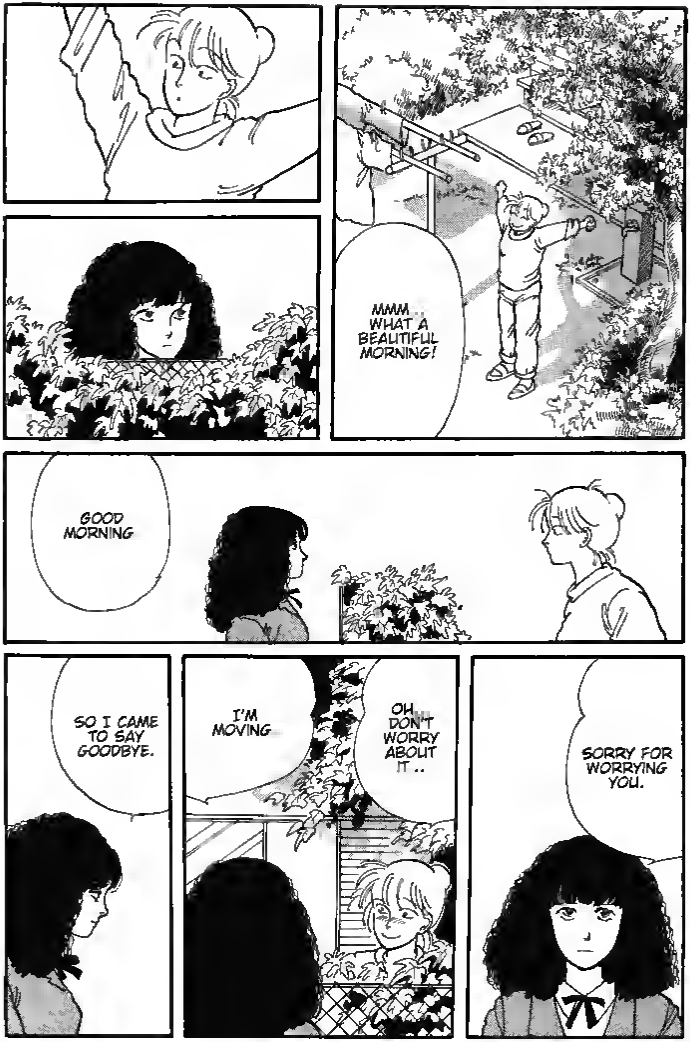
HMM..

AND SHE REALLY DOES SEEM TO PREFER THE PRINCESS STORIES. SHE SULKED WHEN I READ THE THREE LITTLE PIGS.

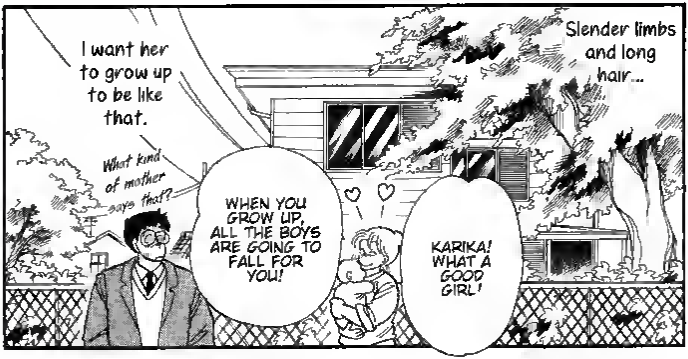

SHE REACTS WHEN I READ HER SNOW WHITE OR CINDERELLA, THOUGH.
DON'T BE SILLY... SHE'S ONLY 8 MONTHS OLD.
BABOO!

What an idiot...

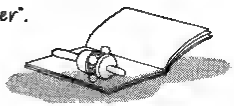

GOO
SHE MAY BE TINY, BUT SHE'S FEMALE ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE MY LITTLE PRINCESS, AREN'T YOU?


MMM... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!
GOOD MORNING
SO I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE.
I'M MOVING
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT..
SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU.

I SAW HIM EVERY MORNING AS I PASSED BY.
I EVEN KNEW HE HAD A WIFE AND BABY AND ALL THAT.
I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM
I LIKED BOTH OF YOU.
YOU WON'T TELL HIM, WILL YOU?
HUH?
GOODBYE.
WELL, I'D BETTER GO NOW.
SAY HI TO KARIKA-CHAN FOR ME.


I want her to grow up to be like that.
What kind of mother says that?
WHEN YOU GROW UP, ALL THE BOYS ARE GOING TO FALL FOR YOU!
KARIKA! WHAT A GOOD GIRL!
Slender limbs and long hair...

This is the story of what happens after the prince and princess's "happily ever after".



When you grow up
I'll tell you the story.

My long haired,
slender limbed
princess.

Schoolgirl Princess / End